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ARLESTON • BARBUCCI

Enhö



EKHO
New York

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EKHO IS THE EARTH, EXCEPT IT'S NOT.



Here we find the same cities, the same countries, but everything's different - it's a world without electricity. One may be born here, or brought in from Earth by some funny little creatures, the Preshauns. Nobody knows exactly what the Preshauns want...



But Fourmille and Youri's arrival is going to upset the balance kept by the Preshauns. Possessed by ghosts, Fourmille must solve their problems in order to go back to being herself again... For when she changes hairstyle, it's a sign she is inhabited by another personality...



FOURMILLE GRATULE

was flying to New York when she tumbled on Ekho. An inheritance was waiting for her and she's now the head of a talent agency.



YURI PODROV

a computer guy, was Fourmille's seat-mate on the plane. He's been accidentally dragged to Ekho with her. Usually their personalities are hardly compatible.



GRACE LUMUMBA

she is a native to Ekho. Loyal secretary of the Gratule Agency. In her spare time she's Yumma the stripper.



SIGISBERT DE MOTAFIUME

this Preshaun is a young clerk. His mission is to make sure that the presence of Fourmille and Youri doesn't affect the delicate balance of the mirror world too much!

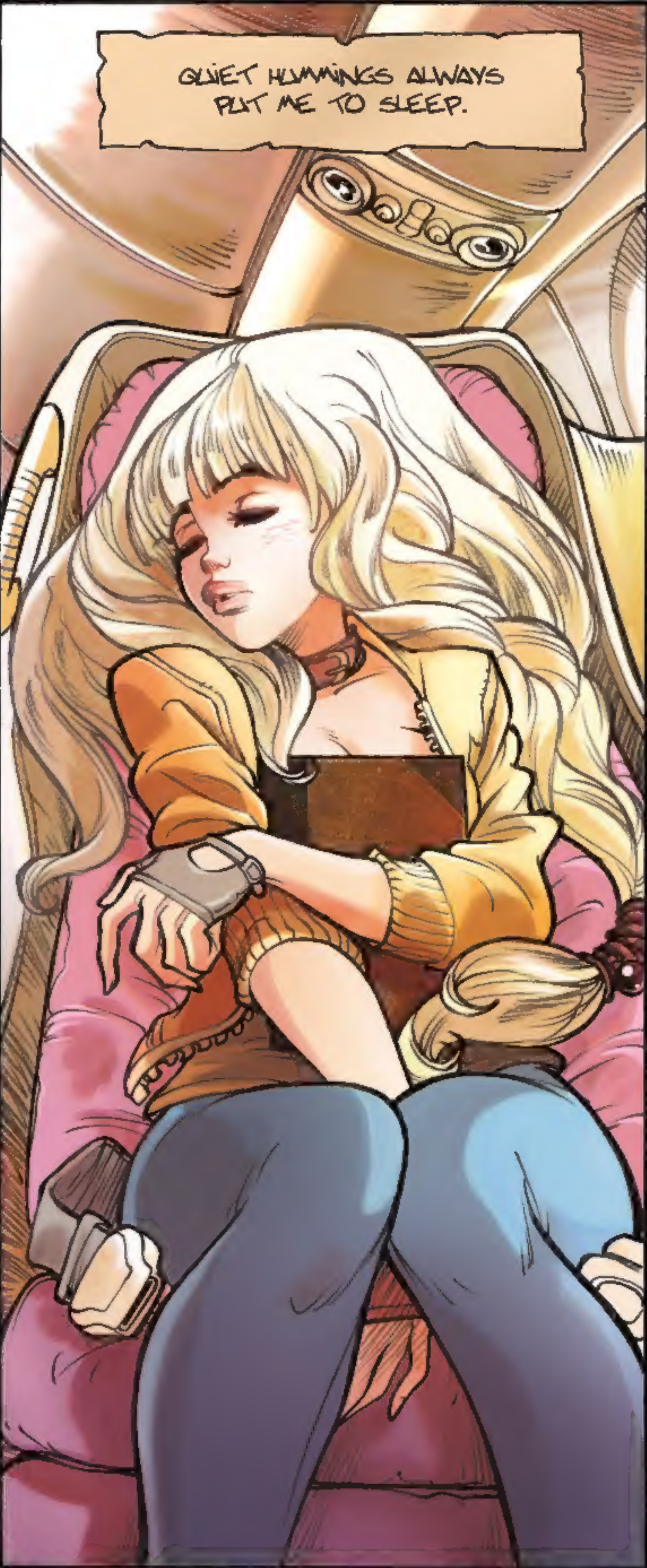


THE PRESHAUNS

are strange and well mannered little creatures who ensure the proper functioning of Ekho; by using strange machines, they keep what they call the Thaumic equilibrium. They have to drink tea at specific times of the day, otherwise they might turn into dreadful, out of control, monsters!



LONG DISTANCE FLIGHTS ALWAYS HAVE A FEELING OF UNREALITY. THE CONTENTMENT OF FLYING OVER A SEA OF SOFT CLOUDS, THE QUIET HUMMING OF THE ENGINES...



QUIET HUMMINGS ALWAYS PUT ME TO SLEEP.

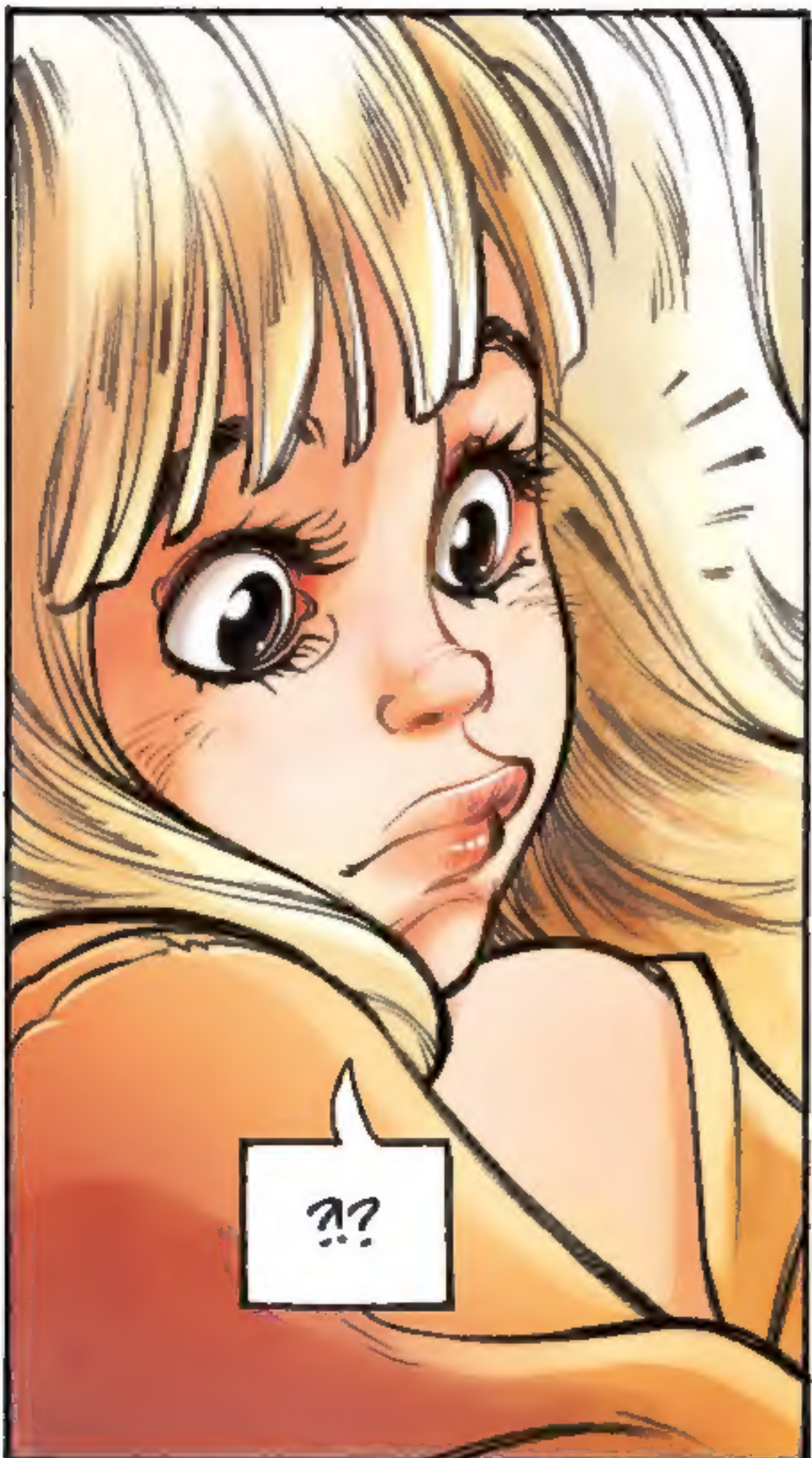


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE JUST BEEN CLEARED TO LAND AT NEW YORK'S JFK AIRPORT...

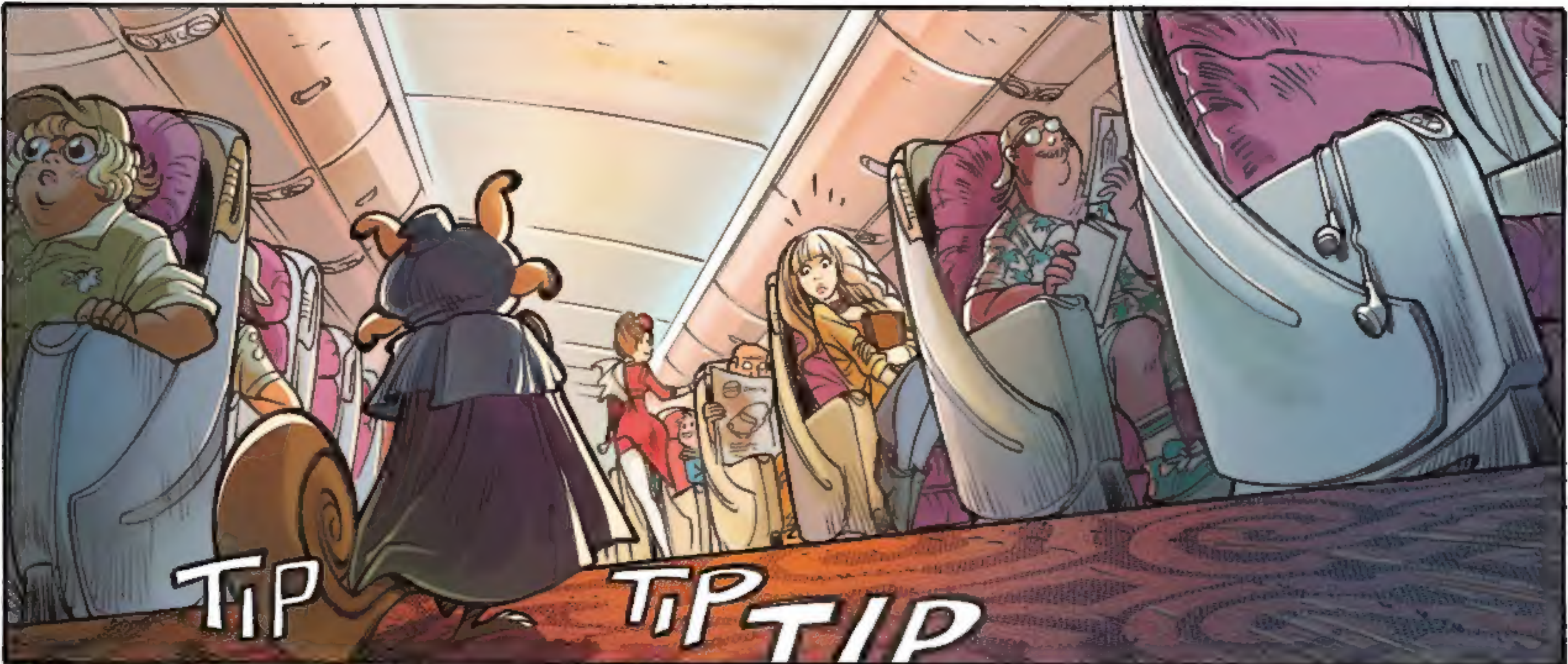


PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR TRAY TABLES ARE IN THEIR FULL UPRIGHT POSITION AND YOUR SEAT BELT IS SECURELY FASTENED...

MMH...



??



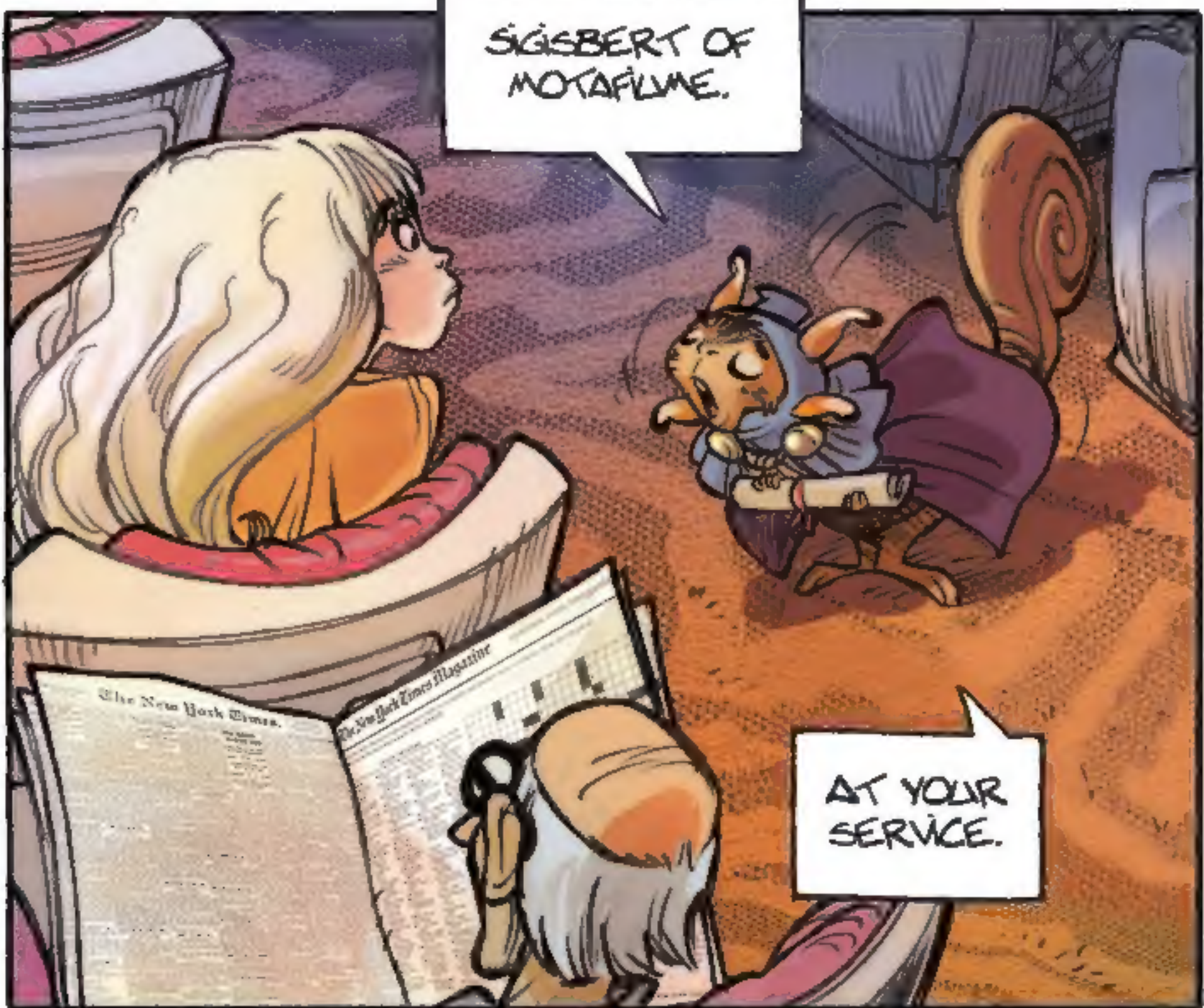
TIP TIP



MISS FOURMILLE GRAVY?

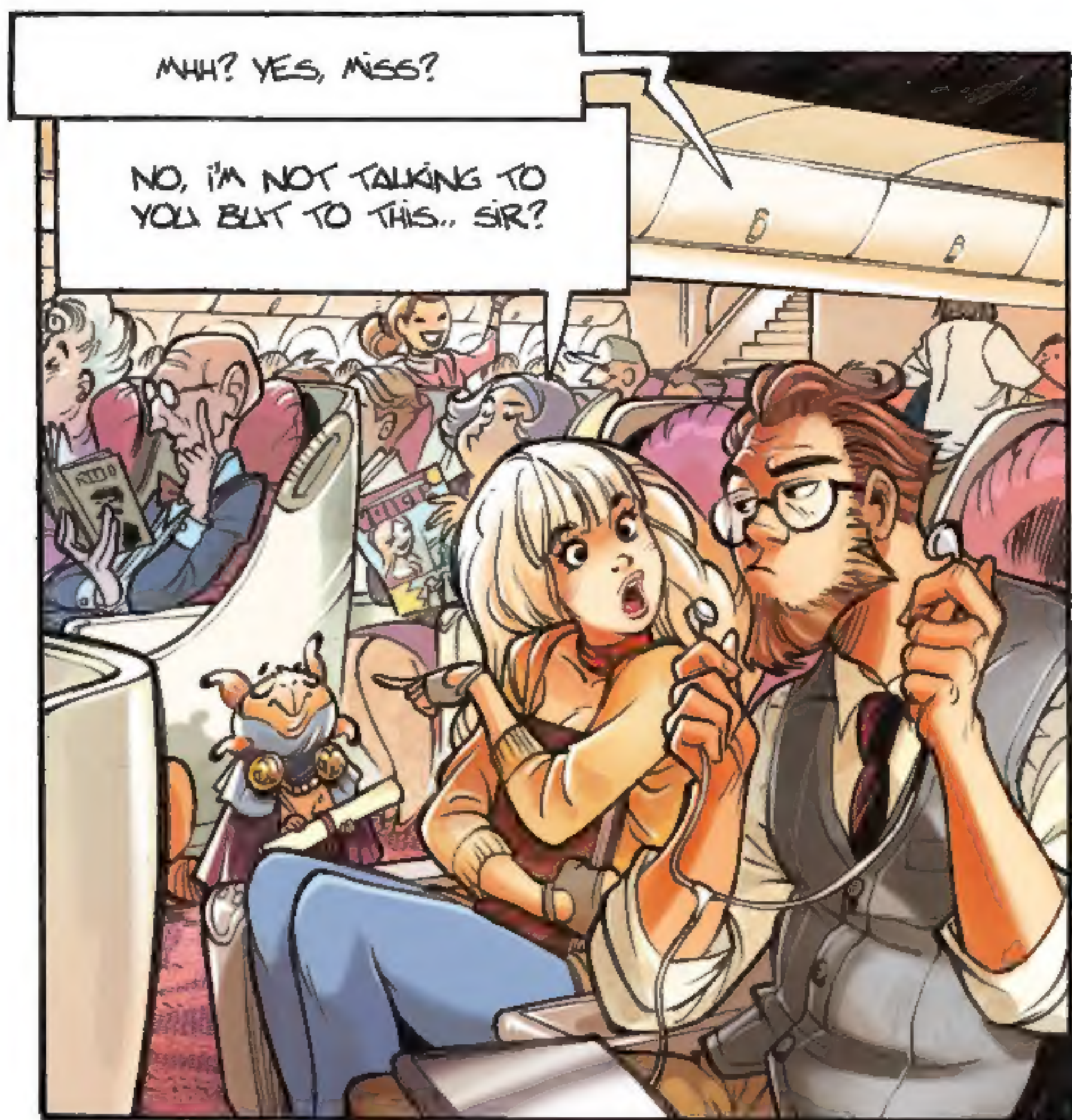


OH... YES? WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU? WHO?



SIGSBERT OF MOTAFLUME.

AT YOUR SERVICE.



MHH? YES, MISS?

NO, I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU BUT TO THIS... SIR?



HUM... THERE'S NOBODY, THERE!

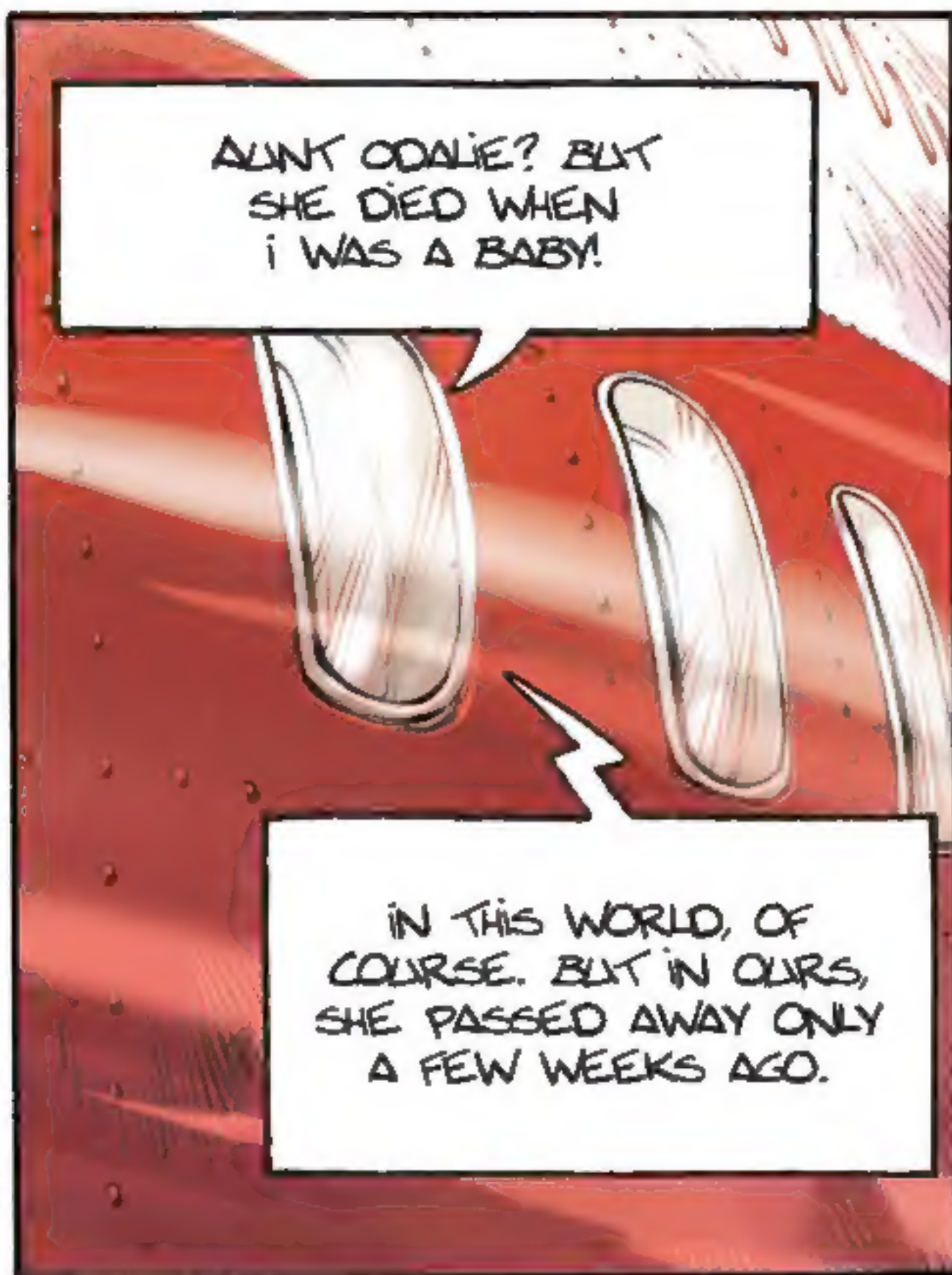
BUT...



HE CAN'T SEE OR HEAR ME, MISS GRATZLE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WHAT I HAVE TO SAY CONCERNS ONLY YOU...

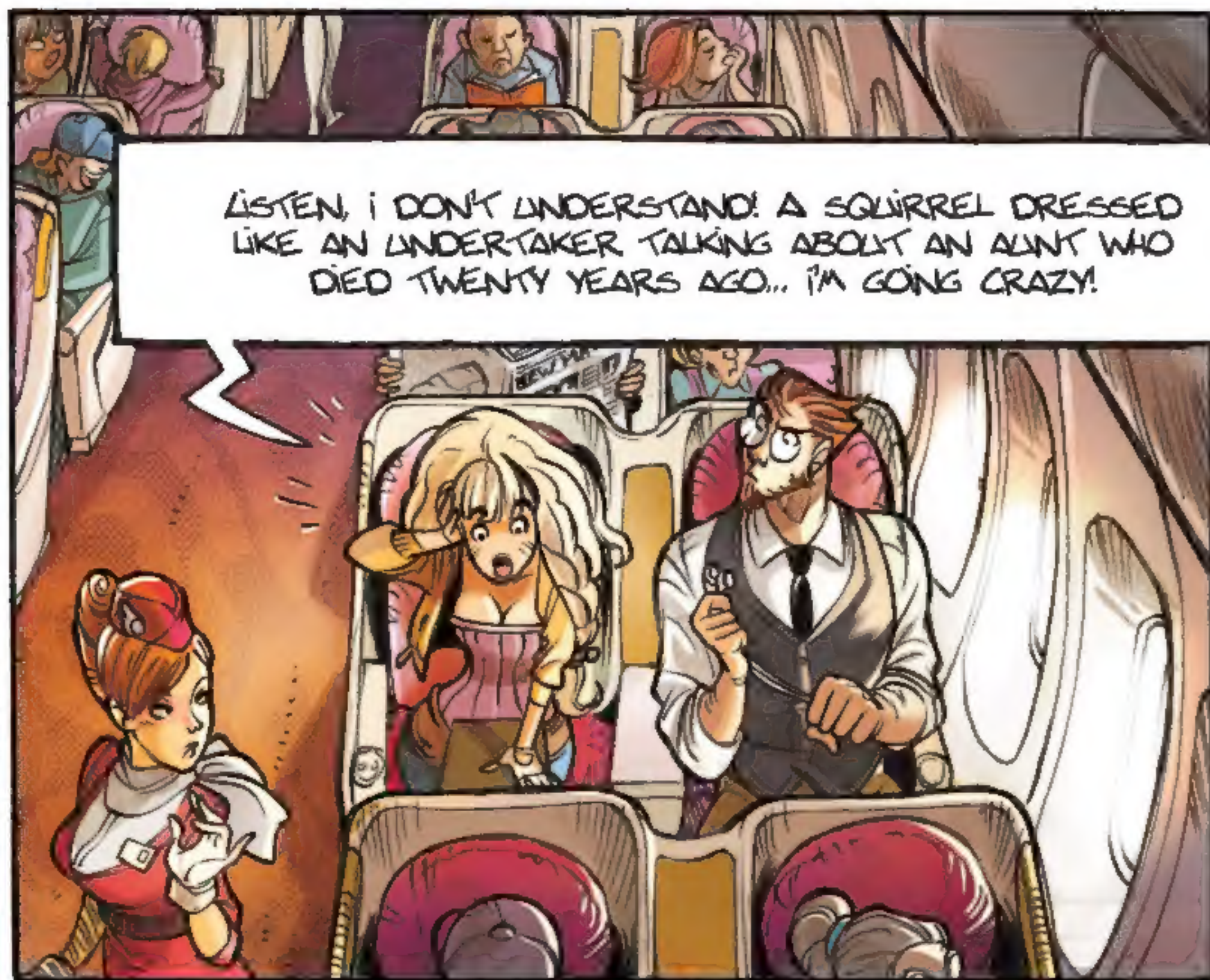


I'M REPRESENTING MOTAFLUME & MOTAFLUME LAW FIRM. IT'S ABOUT YOUR AUNT ODELAIE GRATZLE'S ESTATE. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT YOU ARE THE SOLE HEIR...



AUNT ODELAIE? BUT SHE DIED WHEN I WAS A BABY!

IN THIS WORLD, OF COURSE. BUT IN OURS, SHE PASSED AWAY ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO.



LISTEN, I DON'T UNDERSTAND! A SQUIRREL DRESSED LIKE AN UNDERTAKER TALKING ABOUT AN AUNT WHO DIED TWENTY YEARS AGO... I'M GOING CRAZY!



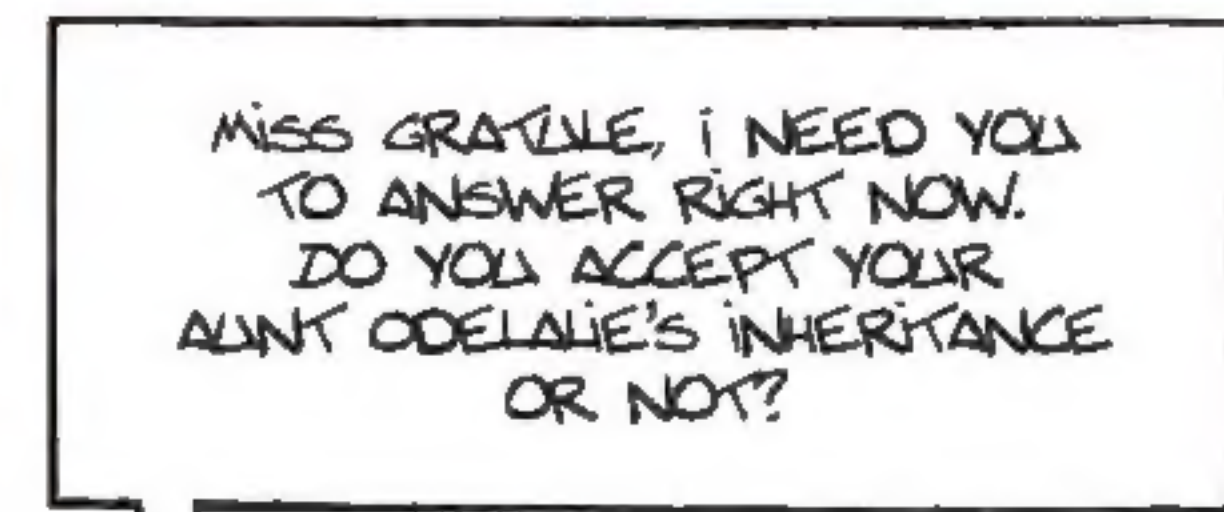
IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT, MISS?

... I DON'T KNOW!

OF COURSE...



RELAX, WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

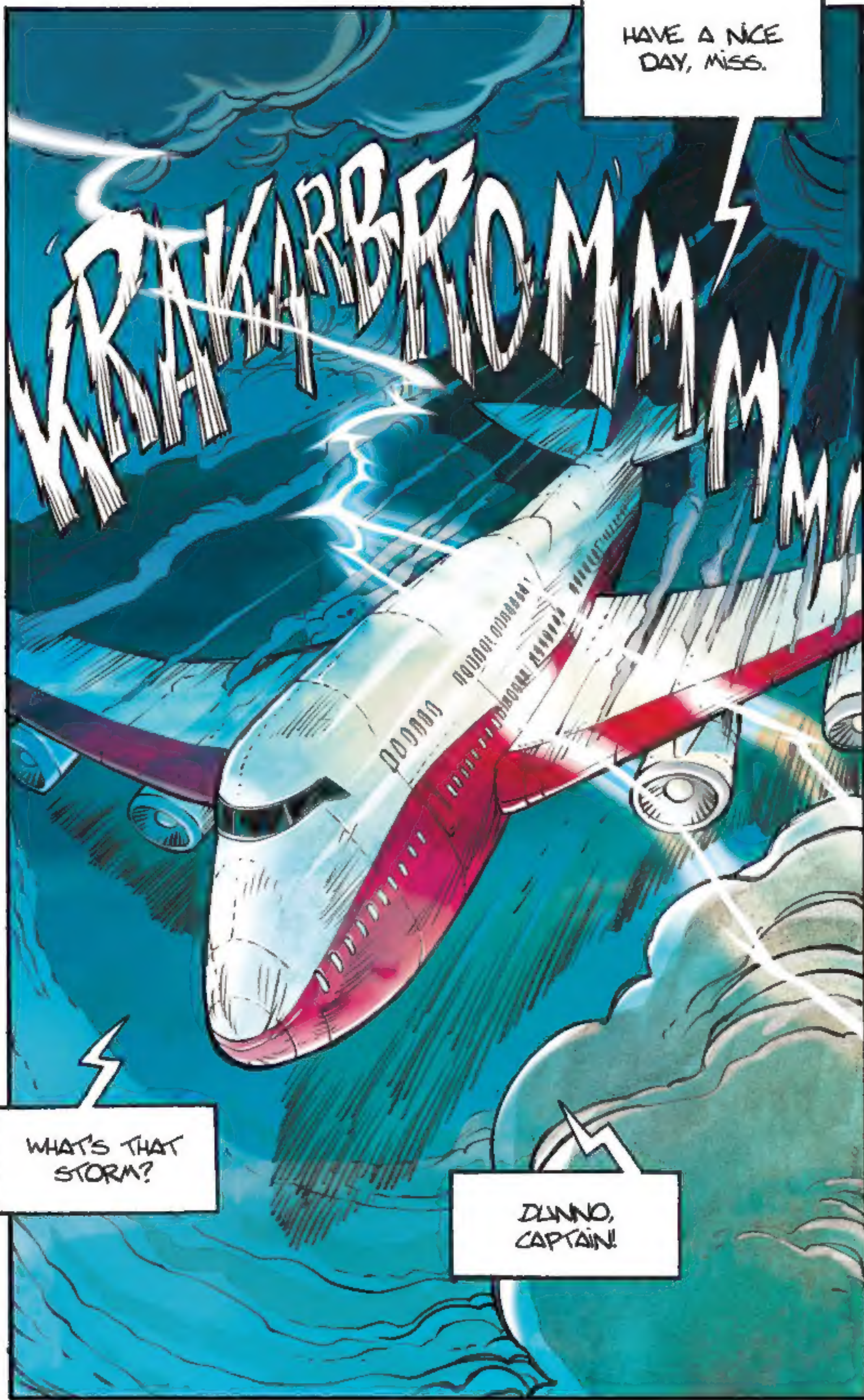


MISS GRATZLE, I NEED YOU TO ANSWER RIGHT NOW. DO YOU ACCEPT YOUR AUNT ODELAIE'S INHERITANCE OR NOT?



ERH... I SUPPOSE I DO.

PERFECT. ONCE IN NEW YORK YOU'LL GO TO THIS ADDRESS.



HAVE A NICE DAY, MISS.

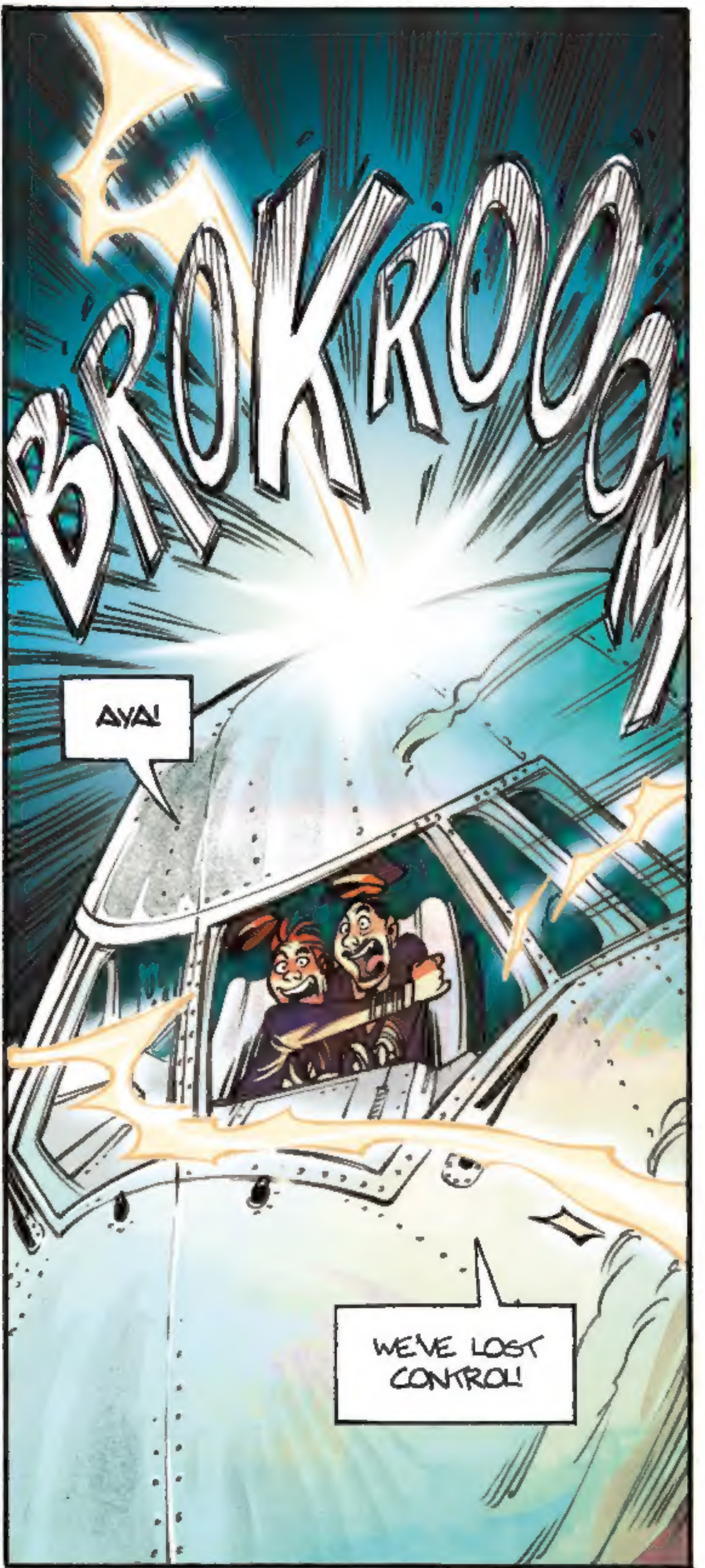
WHAT'S THAT STORM?

DUNNO, CAPTAIN!



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE STAY CALM IT'S JUST TURBULENCE...

EEEEEEEEK



AYAI

WE'VE LOST CONTROL!



WE'RE GONNA DIE!

MISS, FLYING IS THE SAFEST WAY TO TRAVEL...



NOT TODAY!



eee



MAYBE I BLACKED OUT A LITTLE WHILE. A STRANGE FEELING...

WHAT THE... ??



WHERE ARE WE???

WHAT'S THAT???



COULD YOU PLEASE LET GO OF MY ARM? SEE, IT HURTS..

OH SORRY!

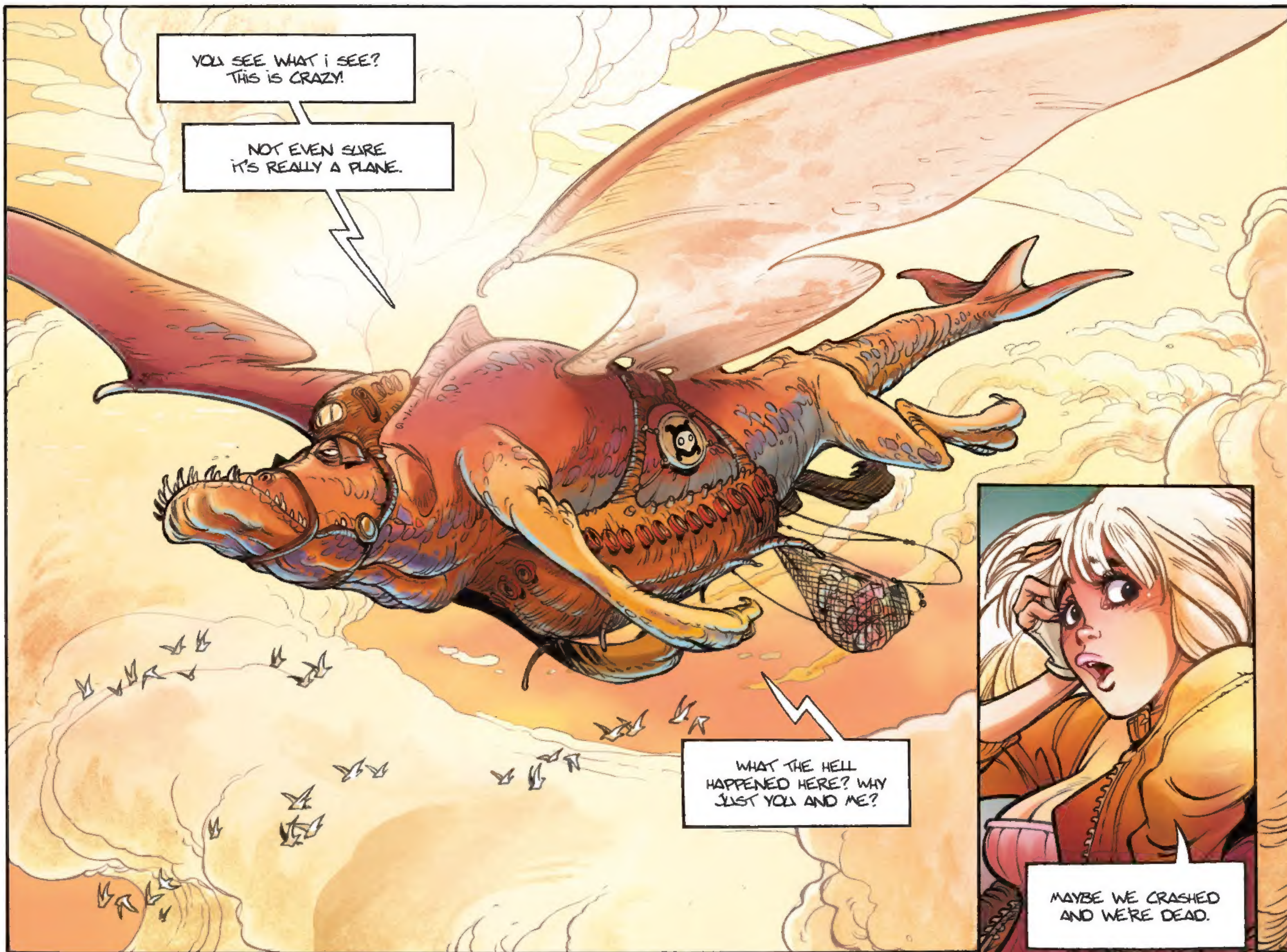


I STAYED STUNNED FOR A MOMENT, AS IF IN A DAZE, ANSWERING MECHANICALLY.

THIS PLANE'S NOT NORMAL!

IT ISN'T, INDEED...

THE PLANE HAD TURNED INTO A WOOD AND LEATHER POD, THE PASSENGERS COMPRISED OF CREATURES OF ALL SORTS AND THAT DIDN'T SEEM TO DISTURB ANYONE, EXCEPT MY NEIGHBOR.



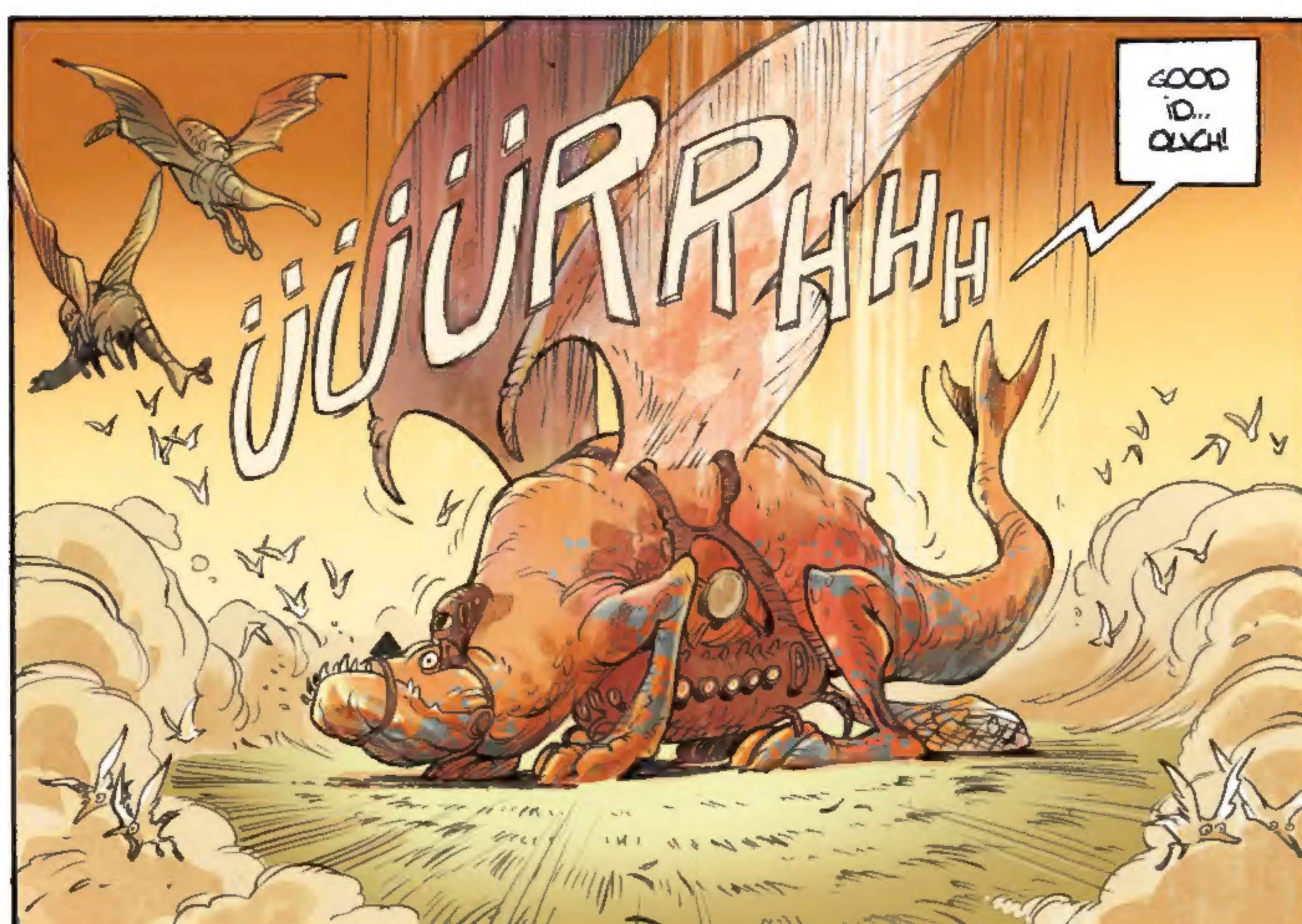
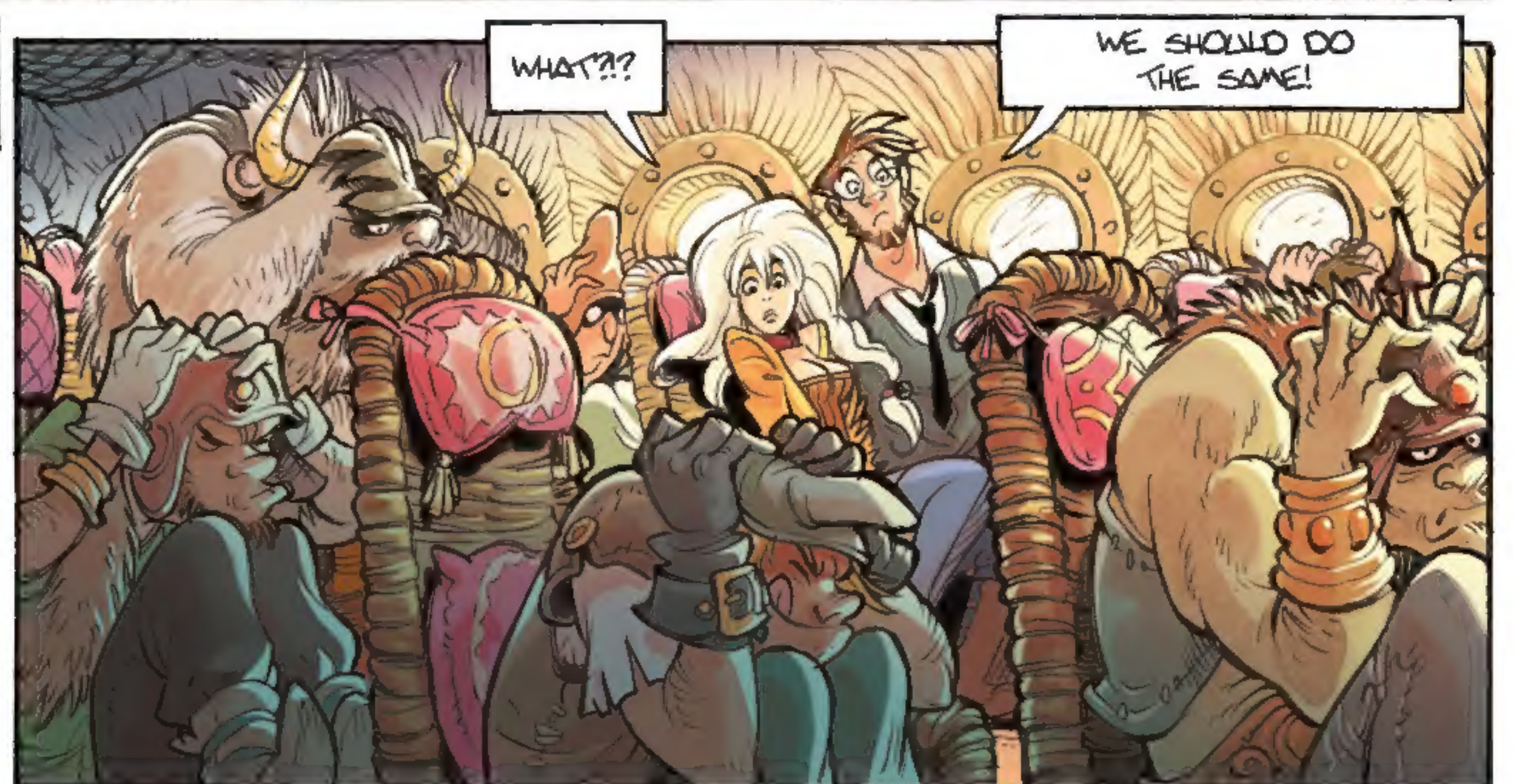
YOU SEE WHAT I SEE? THIS IS CRAZY!

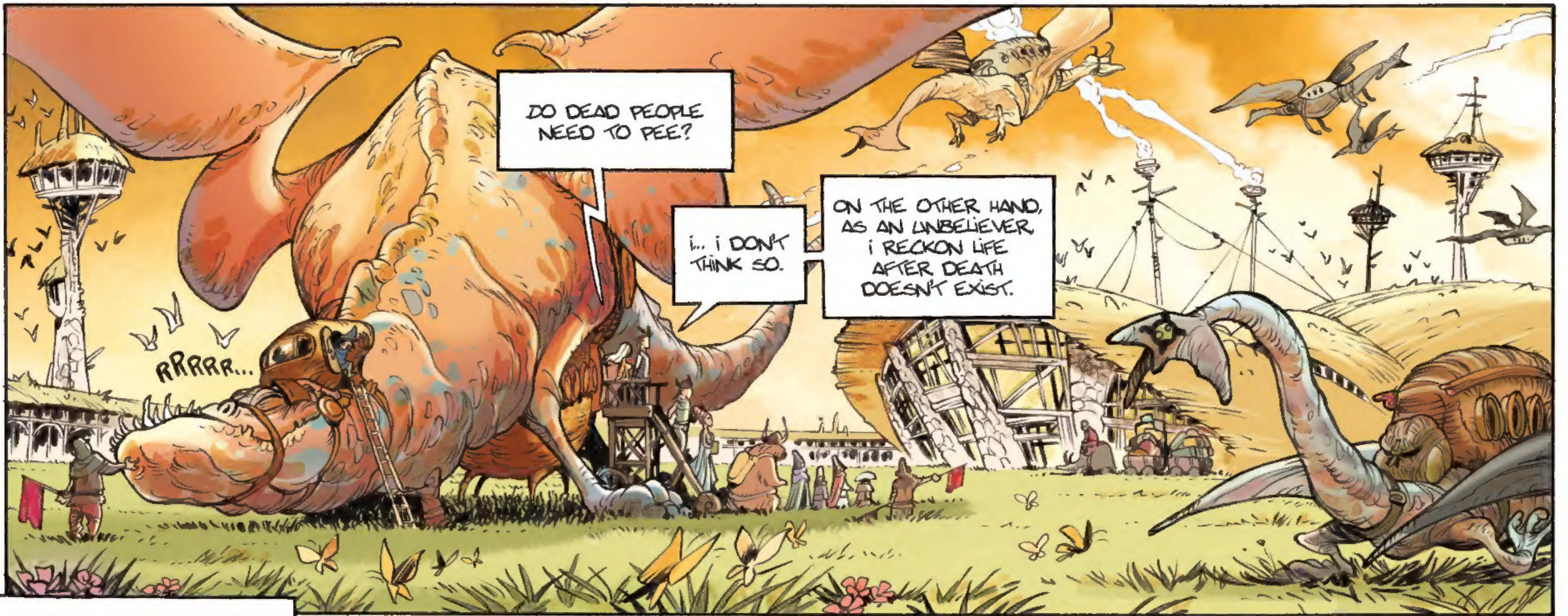
NOT EVEN SURE IT'S REALLY A PLANE.

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE? WHY JUST YOU AND ME?



MAYBE WE CRASHED AND WE'RE DEAD.





DO DEAD PEOPLE
NEED TO PEE?

i... i DON'T
THINK SO.

ON THE OTHER HAND,
AS AN UNBELIEVER,
i RECKON LIFE
AFTER DEATH
DOESN'T EXIST.

RRRRR...

WHILE IN DOUBT, i STILL
HAVE A BLADDER! i NEED
TO FIND A RESTROOM!
THERE'S NO SIGNAL, GET
A PHONE, WE MUST TELL
SOMEBODY!



A PHONE?

OR MAYBE
IT'S A HIDDEN
CAMERA SHOW
GAG...

WE WERE DRUGGED
ON THE PLANE AND...
DRAGONS DO
NOT EXIST. IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE.

HEY, YOU!



i KNOW A BAGGAGE THIEF
WHEN i SEE ONE AND i'M
LOOKING AT ONE RIGHT NOW!
WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?

WELL... i JUST ARRIVED
FROM PARIS AND...



AND YOU'RE
WAITING FOR
YOUR LUGGAGE?

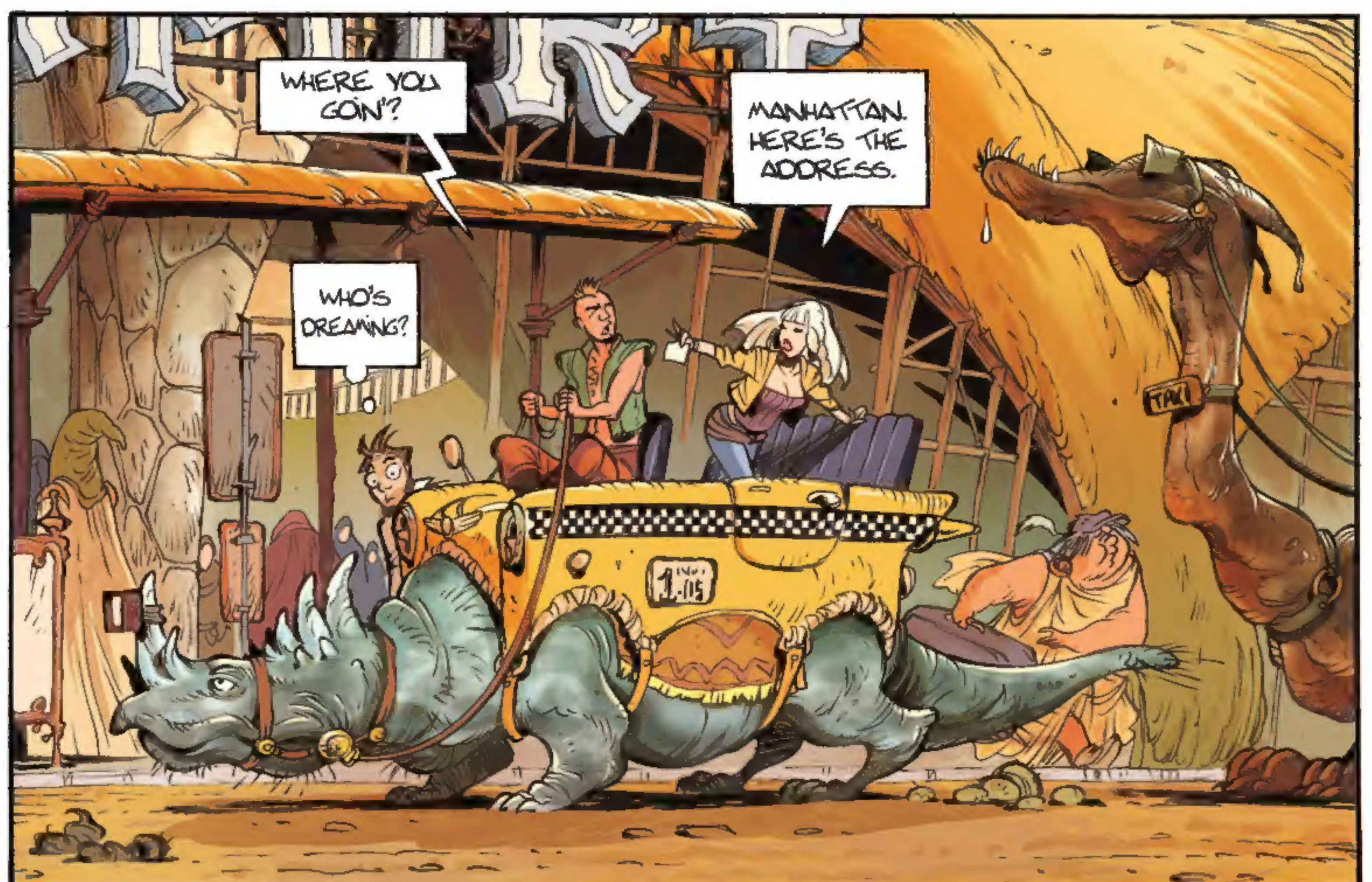
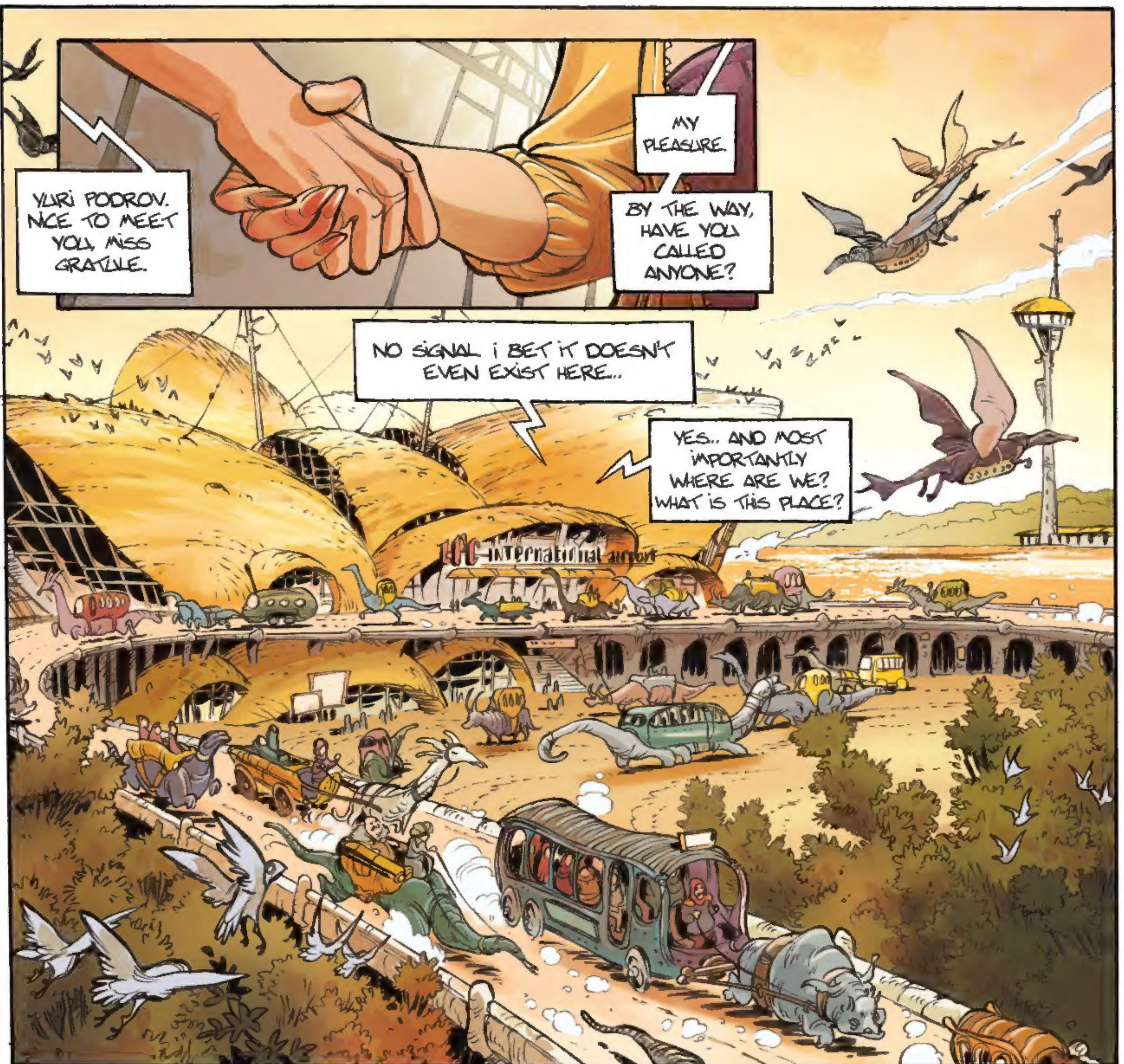
i... i'M NOT SURE
IT FOLLOWED...



YES, OFFICER
COULD YOU
TELL US HOW
TO GET HERE?



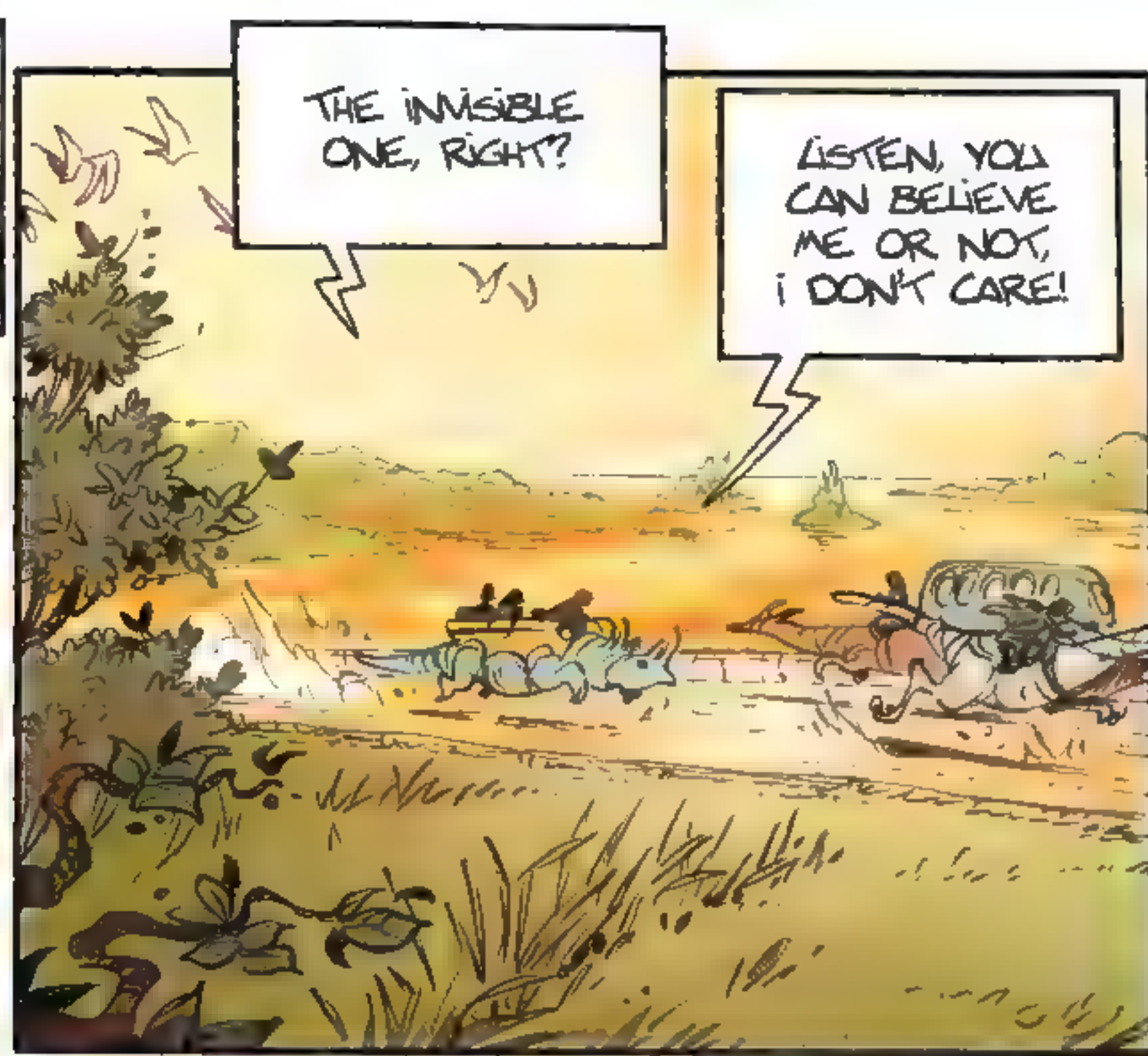
YOU'RE IN NEW YORK
GET A CAB!



MAY I KNOW HOW
COME YOU HAVE
A PAPER WITH
AN ADDRESS?



THAT STRANGE
GUY, THAT SORT
OF SQUIRREL
GAVE IT TO ME
ON THE PLANE.

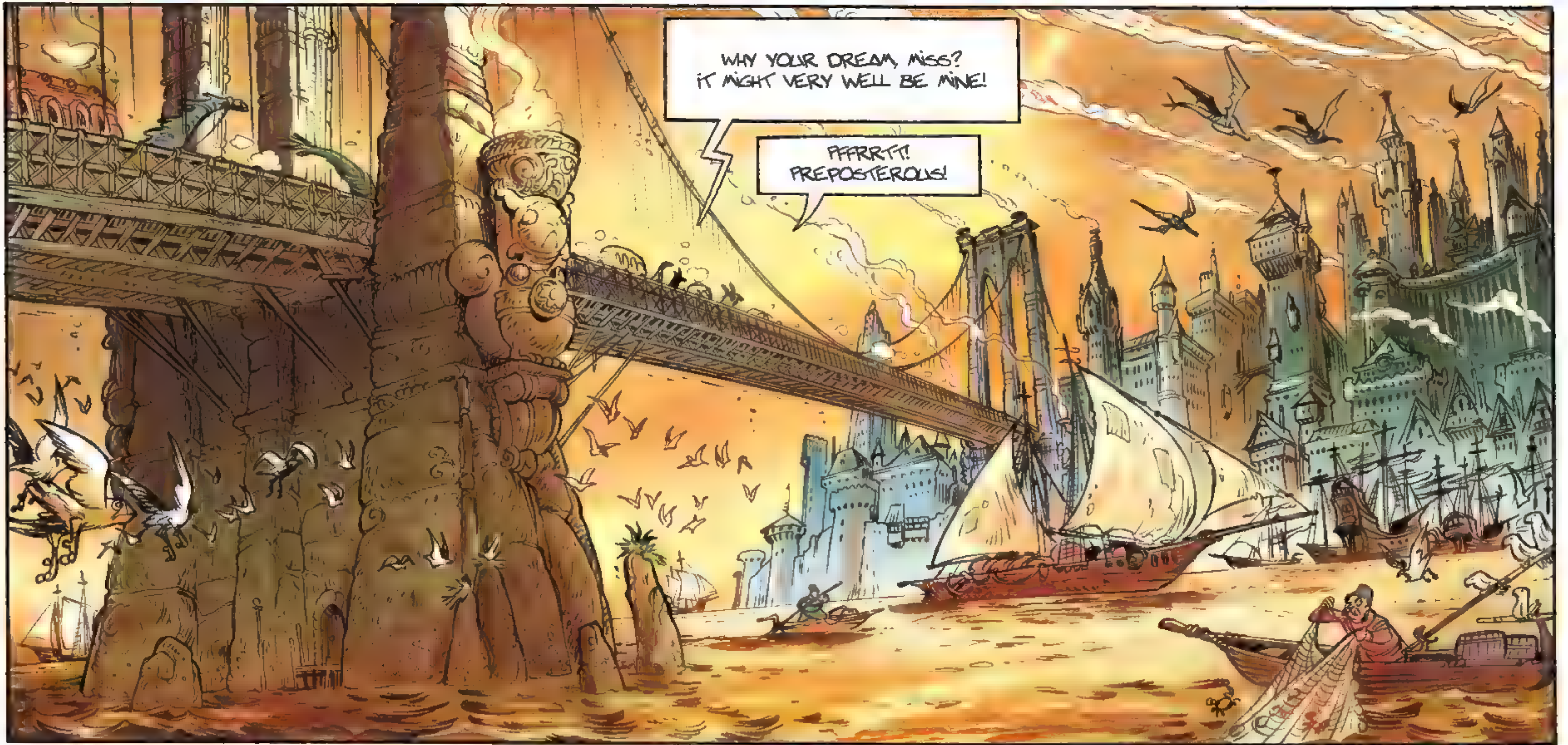


THE INVISIBLE
ONE, RIGHT?

LISTEN, YOU
CAN BELIEVE
ME OR NOT,
I DON'T CARE!



IT'S MY DREAM
AFTER ALL
I'LL DO WHAT
I WANT!



WHY YOUR DREAM, MISS?
IT MIGHT VERY WELL BE MINE!

FFRRRT!
PREPOSTEROUS!

TALKING ABOUT PREPOSTEROUS THINGS,
DID YOU NOTICE WE UNDERSTAND
VERY WELL WHAT PEOPLE SAY, EVEN
THOUGH THEY DON'T SPEAK FRENCH
OR ENGLISH?



h...



PLEASE, SAY
SOMETHING!

MH?



WHAT DO YOU WANT
ME TO SAY?



YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S A
DIFFERENT LANGUAGE!

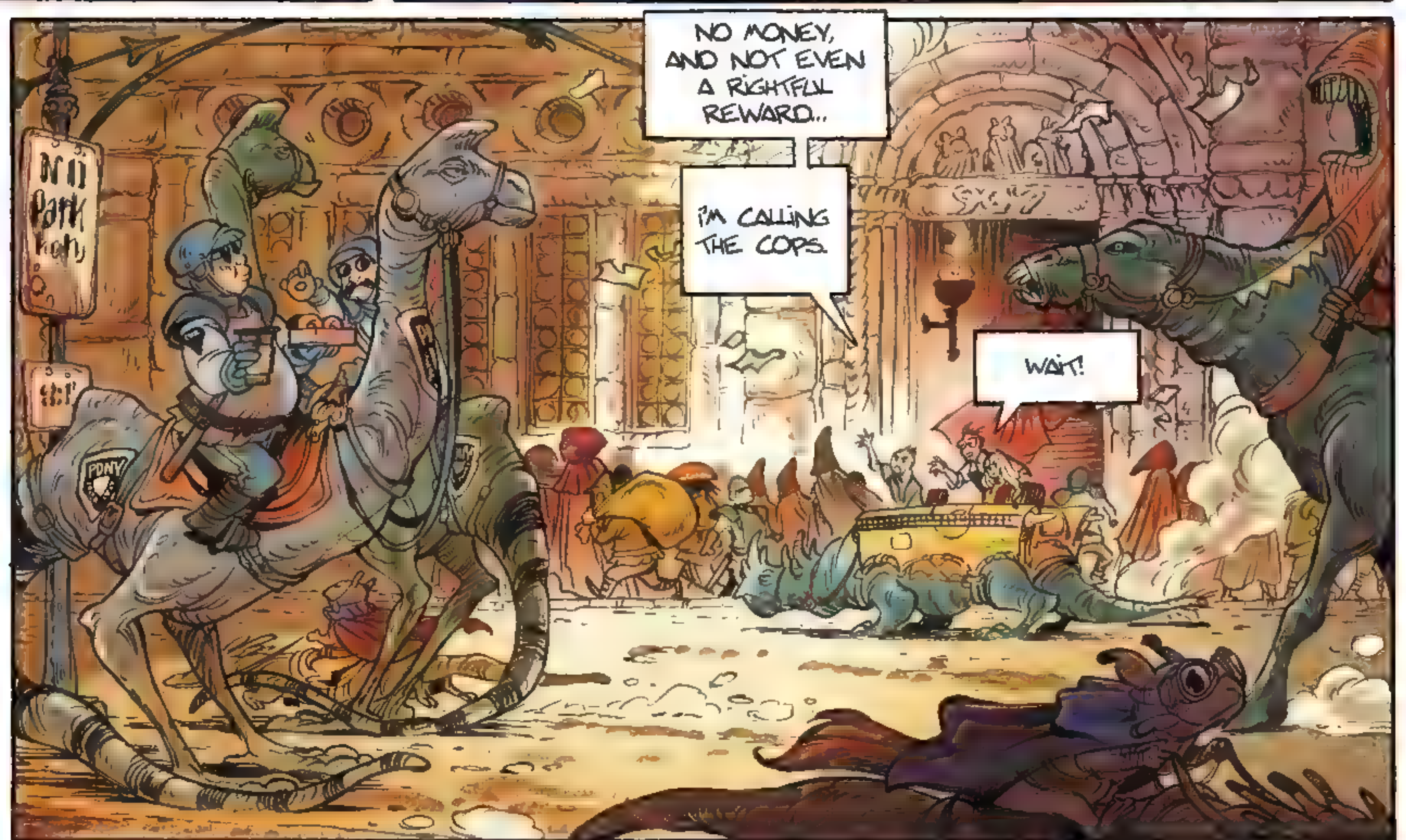
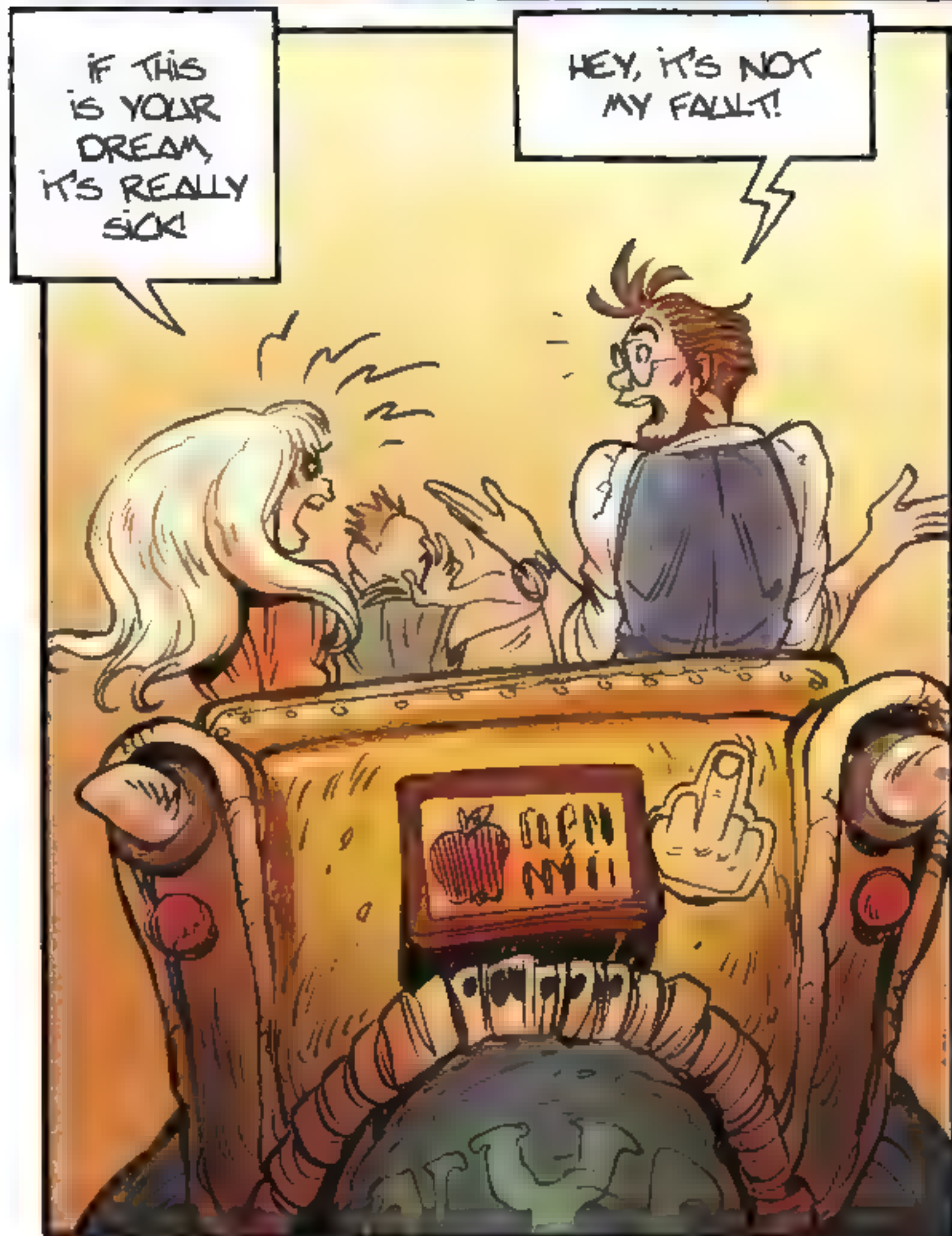
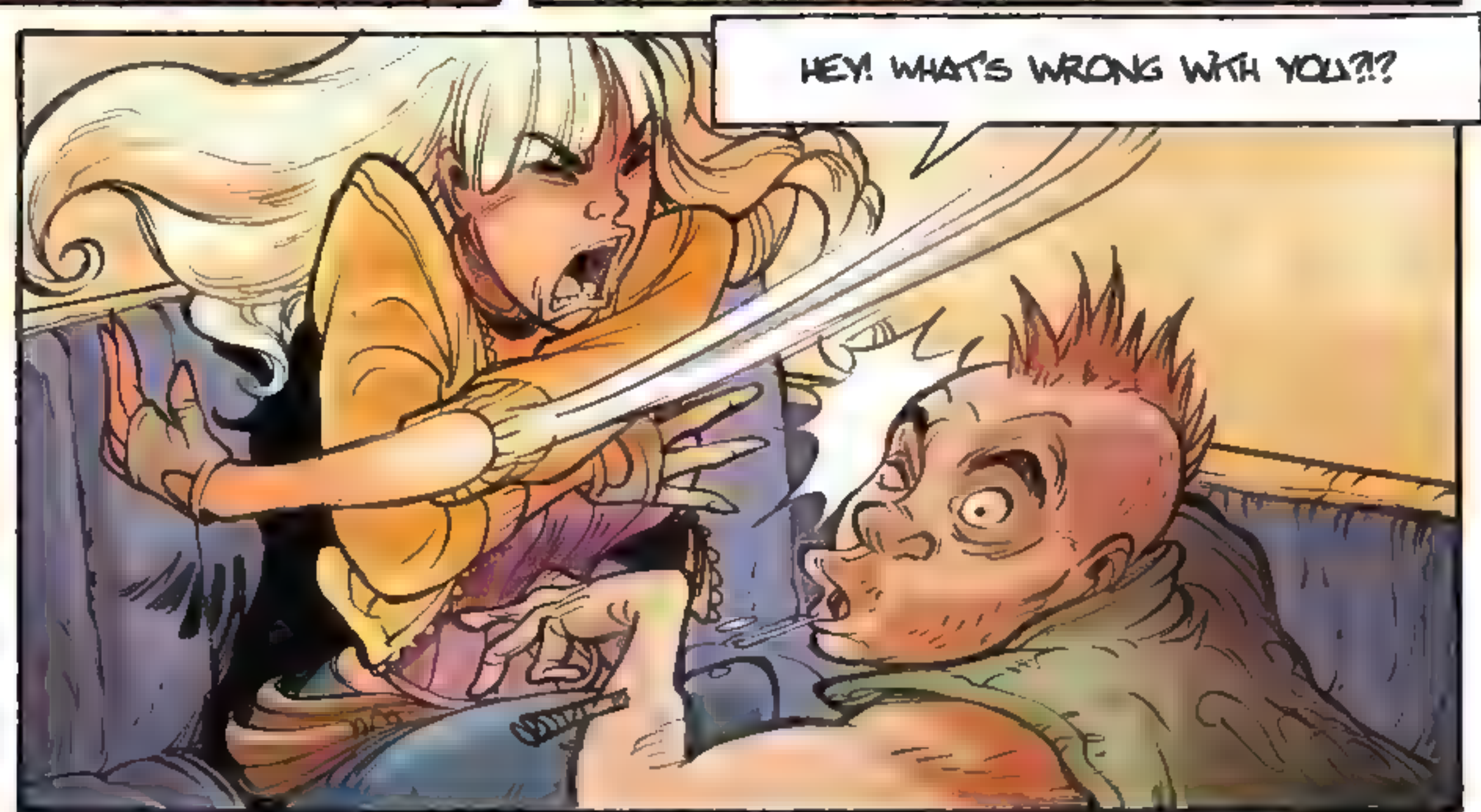
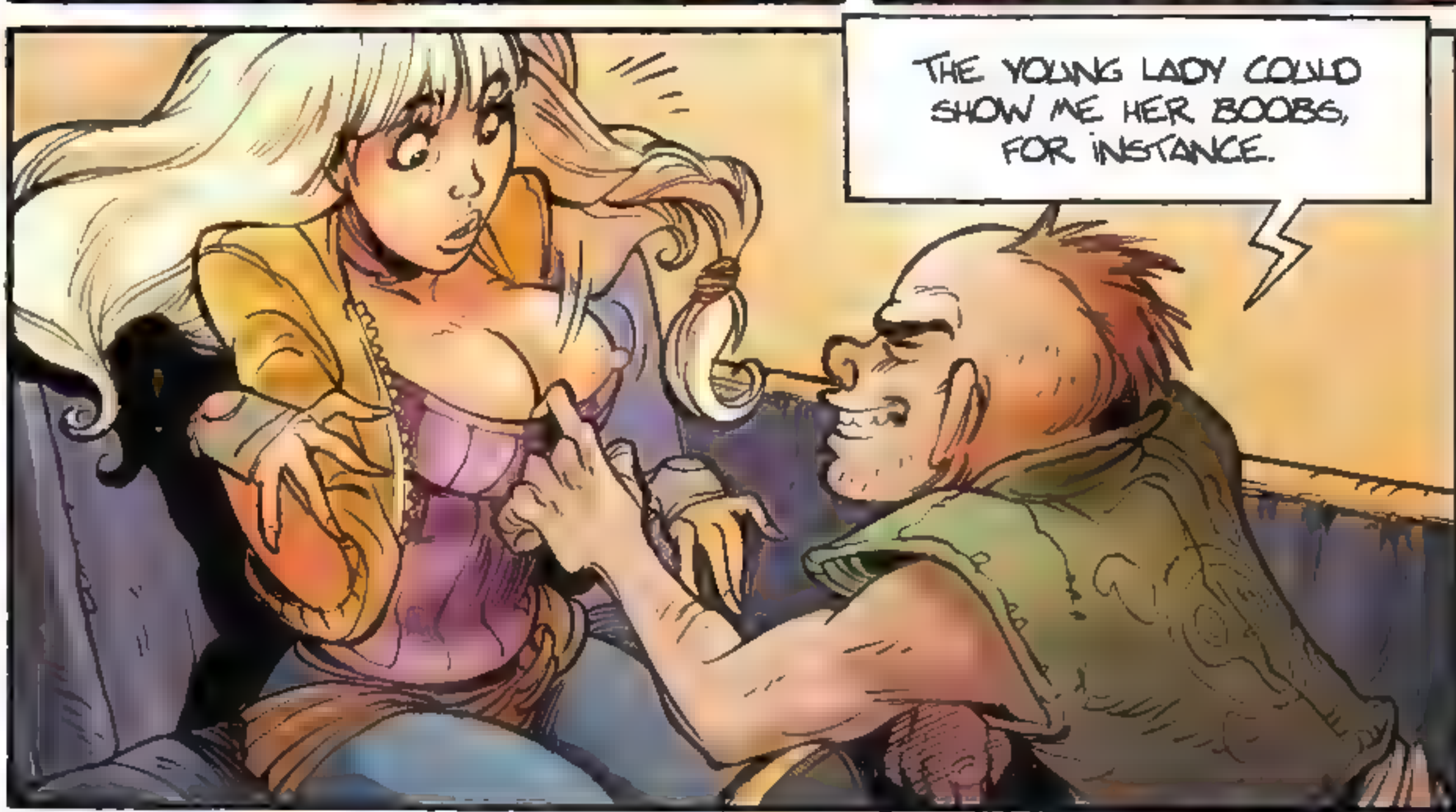
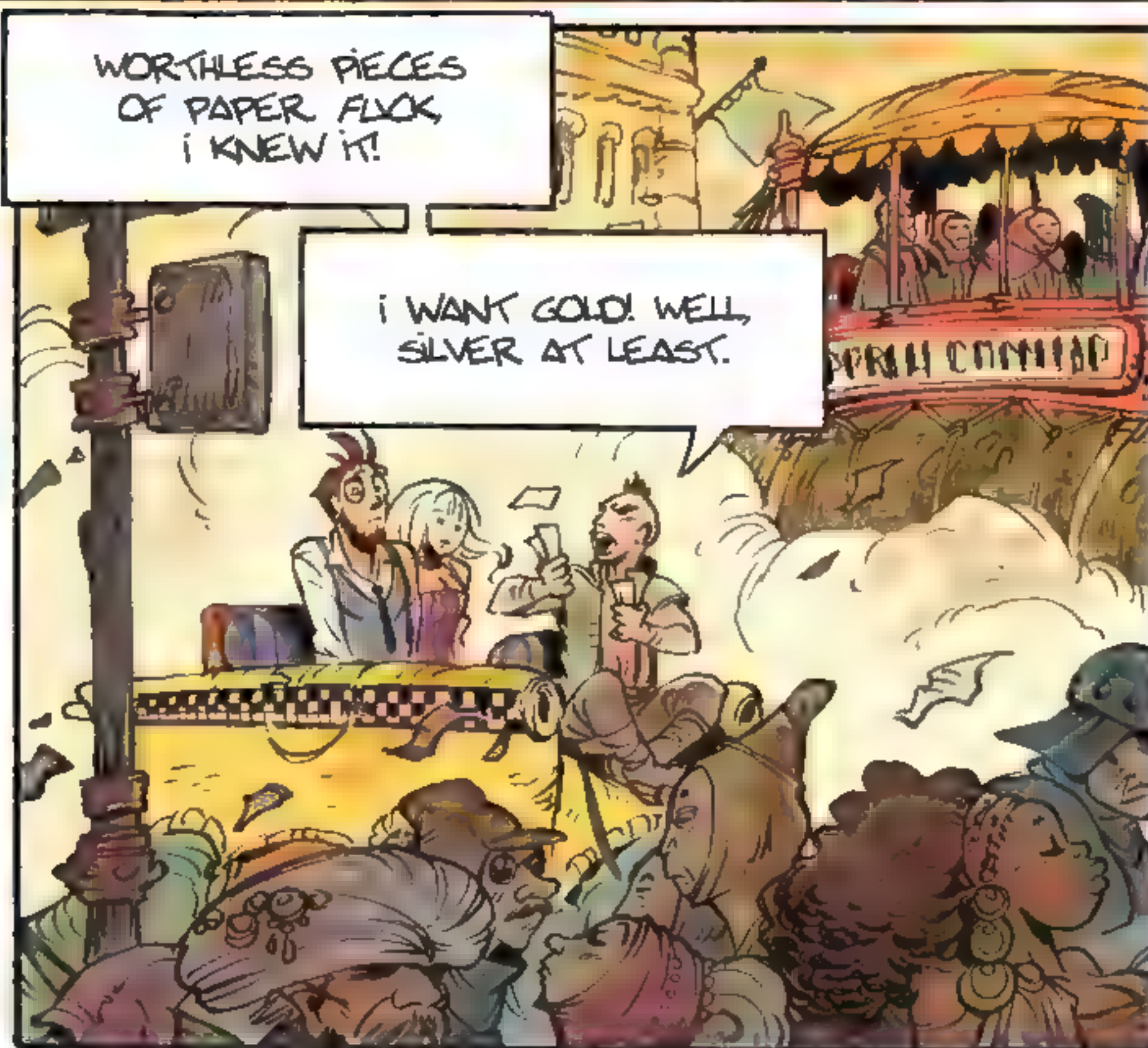
WE SPEAK IT
AND GET IT
WITHOUT BEING
AWARE OF IT!

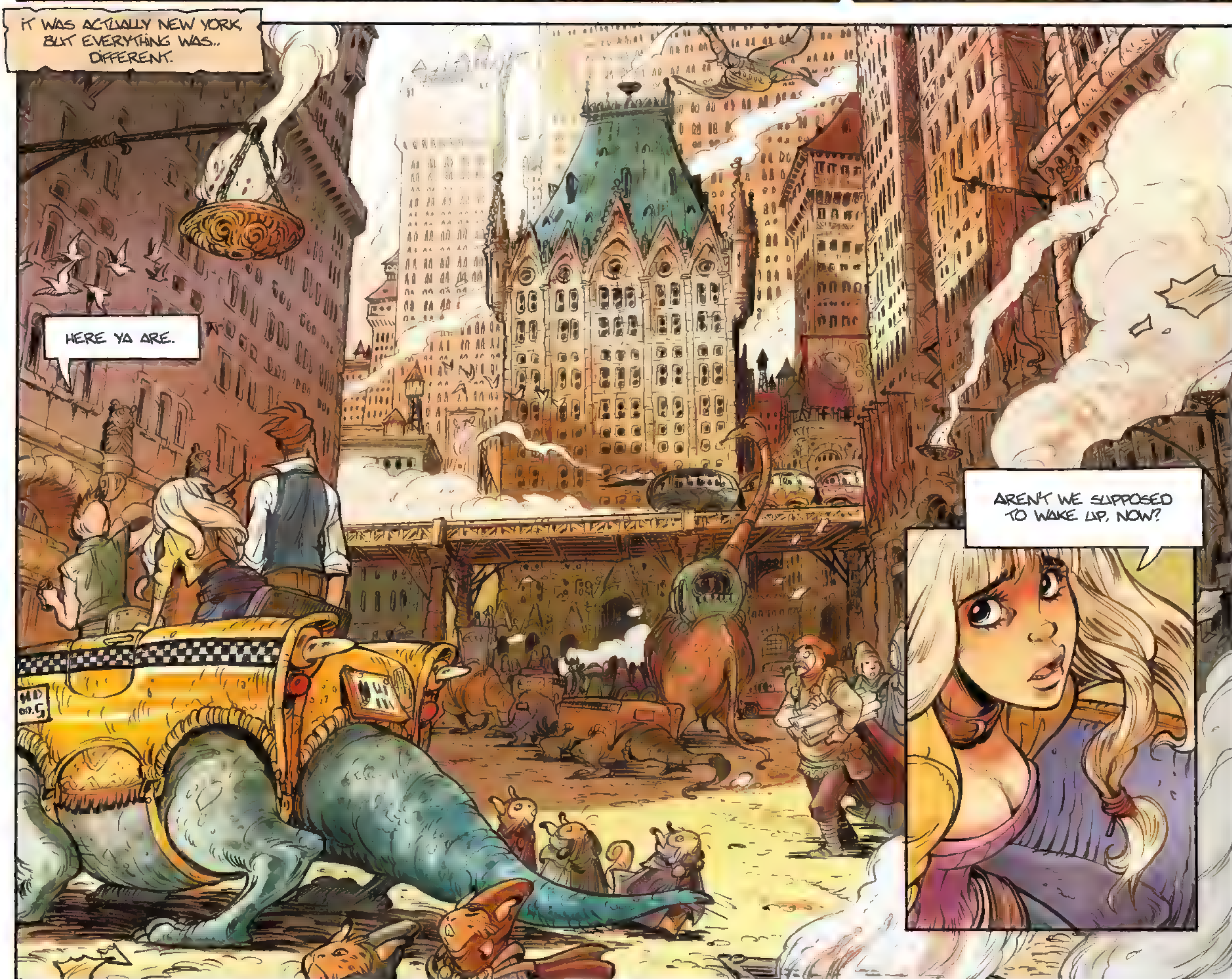
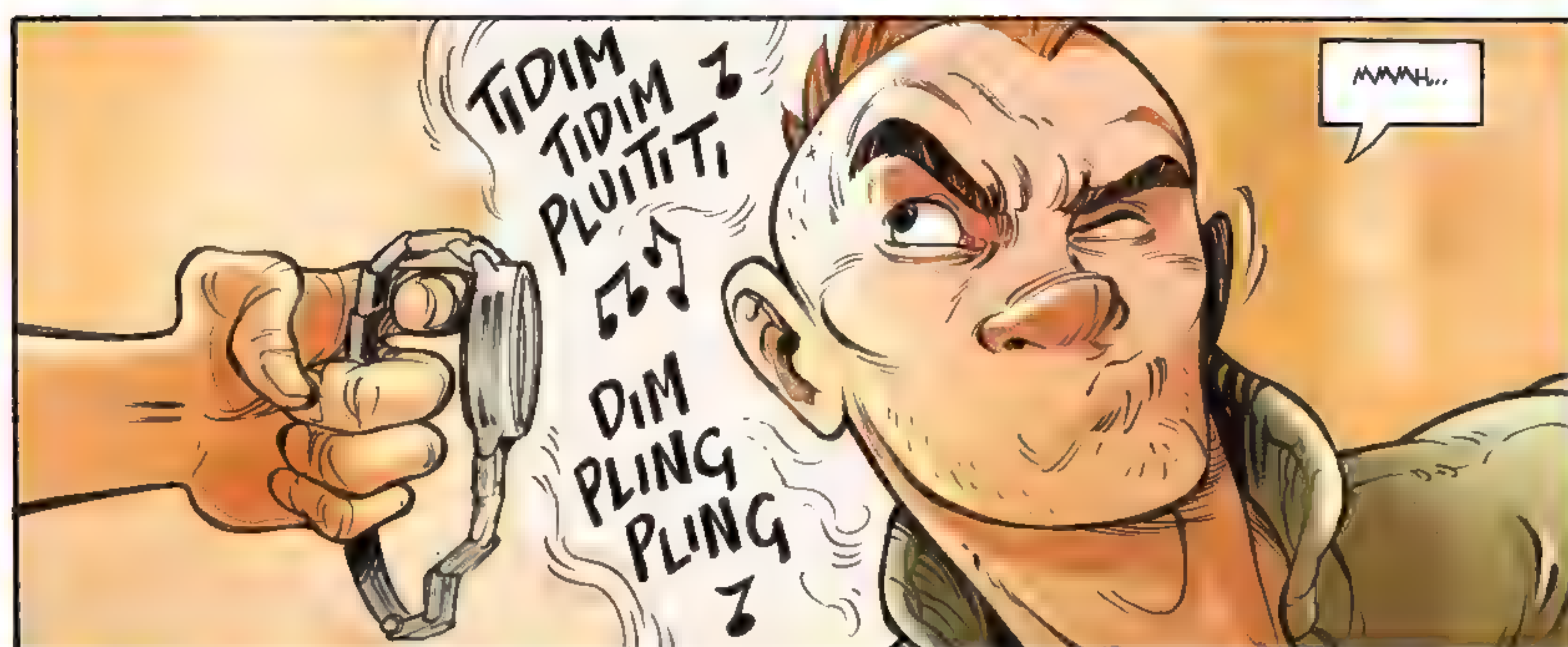
SAY, YOU TWO, I'VE
BEEN LISTENING TO
YOU FOR A WHILE...



AREN'T YOU
BAGPIPES?

BAGPIPES?





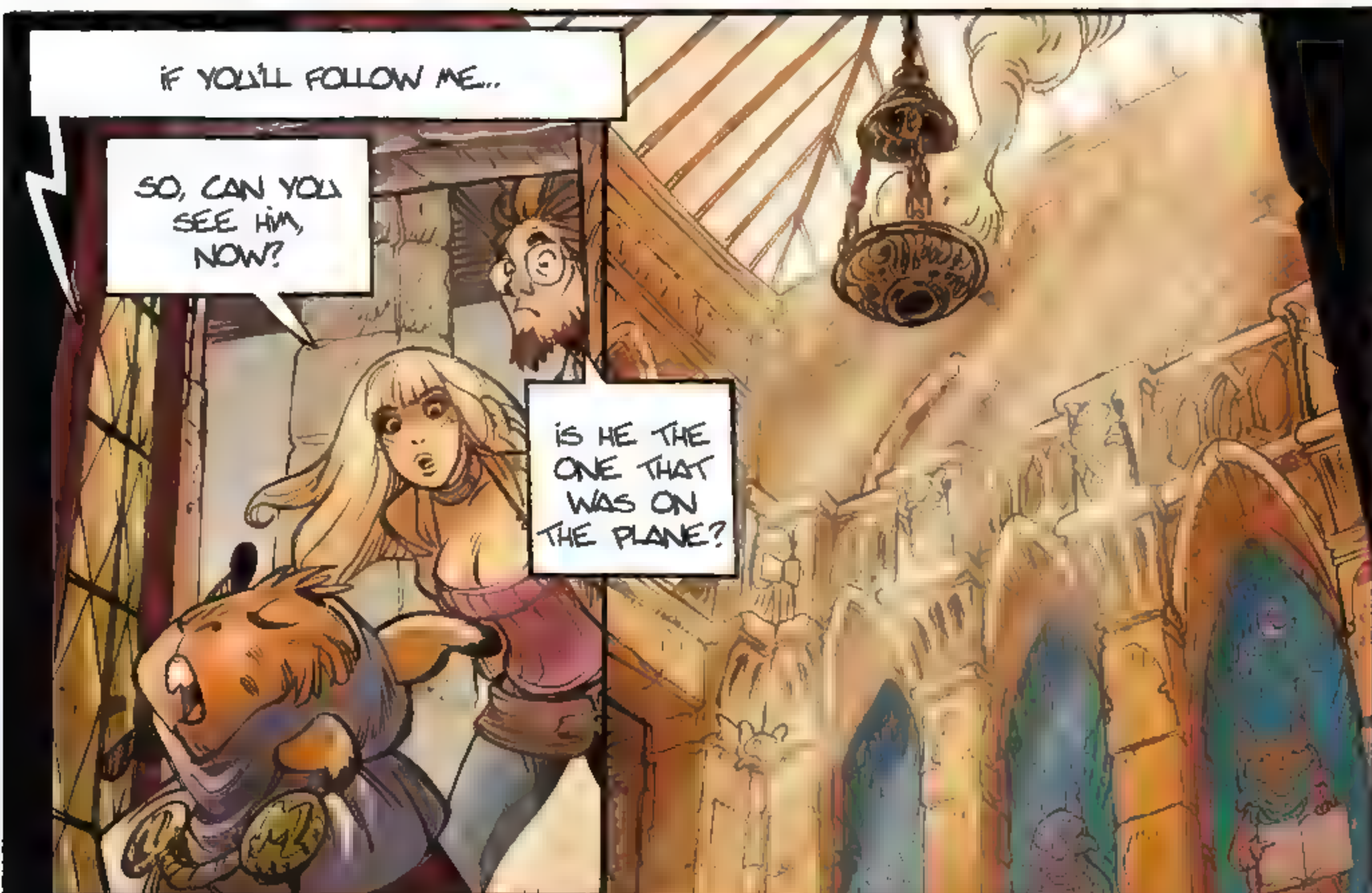


OBSOLETELY NOT.

MISS GRADULE!



THIS WAY, PLEASE!



IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME...

SO, CAN YOU SEE HIM, NOW?

IS HE THE ONE THAT WAS ON THE PLANE?



WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT I'M DOING HERE, NOW?

LEOMANDER OF MOTAFUME, ESQUIRE, IS WAITING FOR YOU.



ISN'T THAT YOUR NAME???

NOT EXACTLY. I AM SIGSBERT OF MOTAFUME.



LEOMANDER OF MOTAFUME, ESQUIRE, IS MY DAD, I AM HIS CLERK



IT'S KIND OF, HUM, CRAMPED, IN HERE...

SOME LEVELS ARE RESERVED TO THE PRESHALINS MY SPECIES. HUMANS HAVE RARELY ANYTHING TO DO HERE...

WE'VE DISCOVERED THE FLOORS RESERVED TO THE PRESALINS. EVERYTHING IS SMALLER AND YOU HAVE TO MOVE IN THE MIDDLE OF FURNITURE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN. AND YET, A GREAT SOLEMNITY COMES FROM IT, A SERIOUS AND IMPRESSIVE LOOK.



SO, THIS IS THE LITTLE FOURMILLE...

ERM... YES...

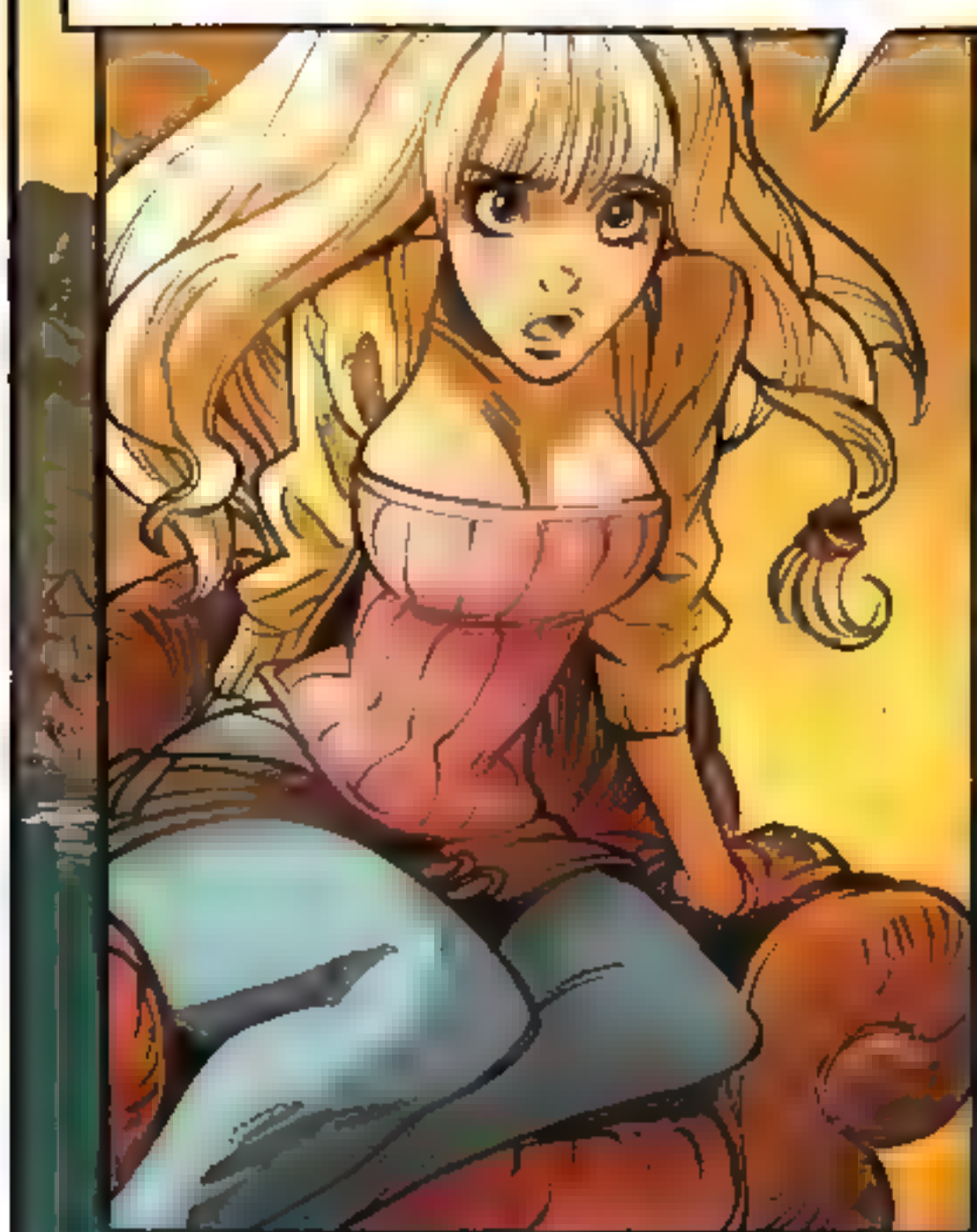
NECE OF ODELAIE GRATULE... YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE YOUR AUNT, MISS.

YOUNGER OF COURSE.

AND LESS DEAD, TOO.

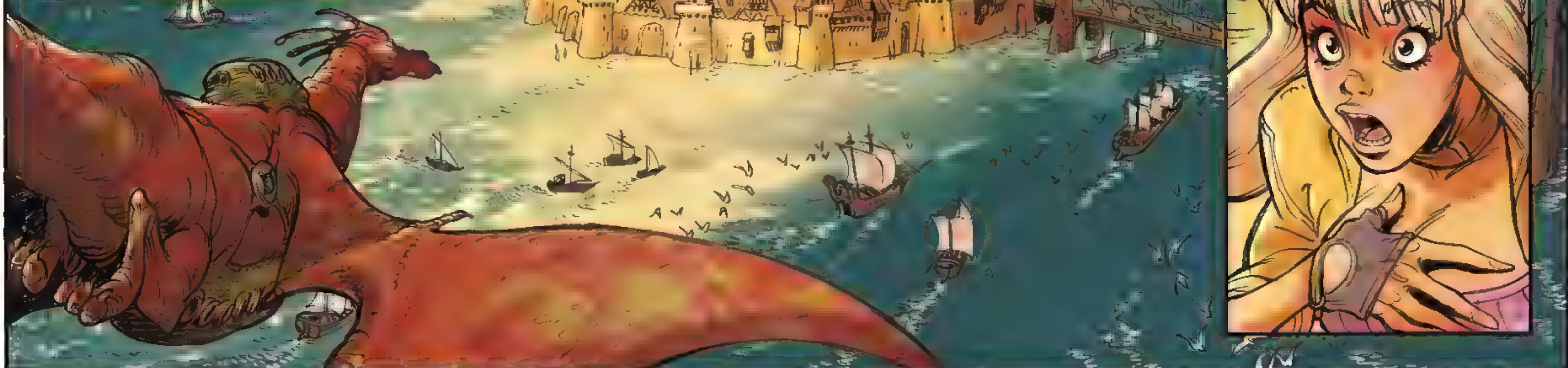


LISTEN, I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS. WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MY AUNT? AND, MOST OF ALL, WHERE ARE WE?

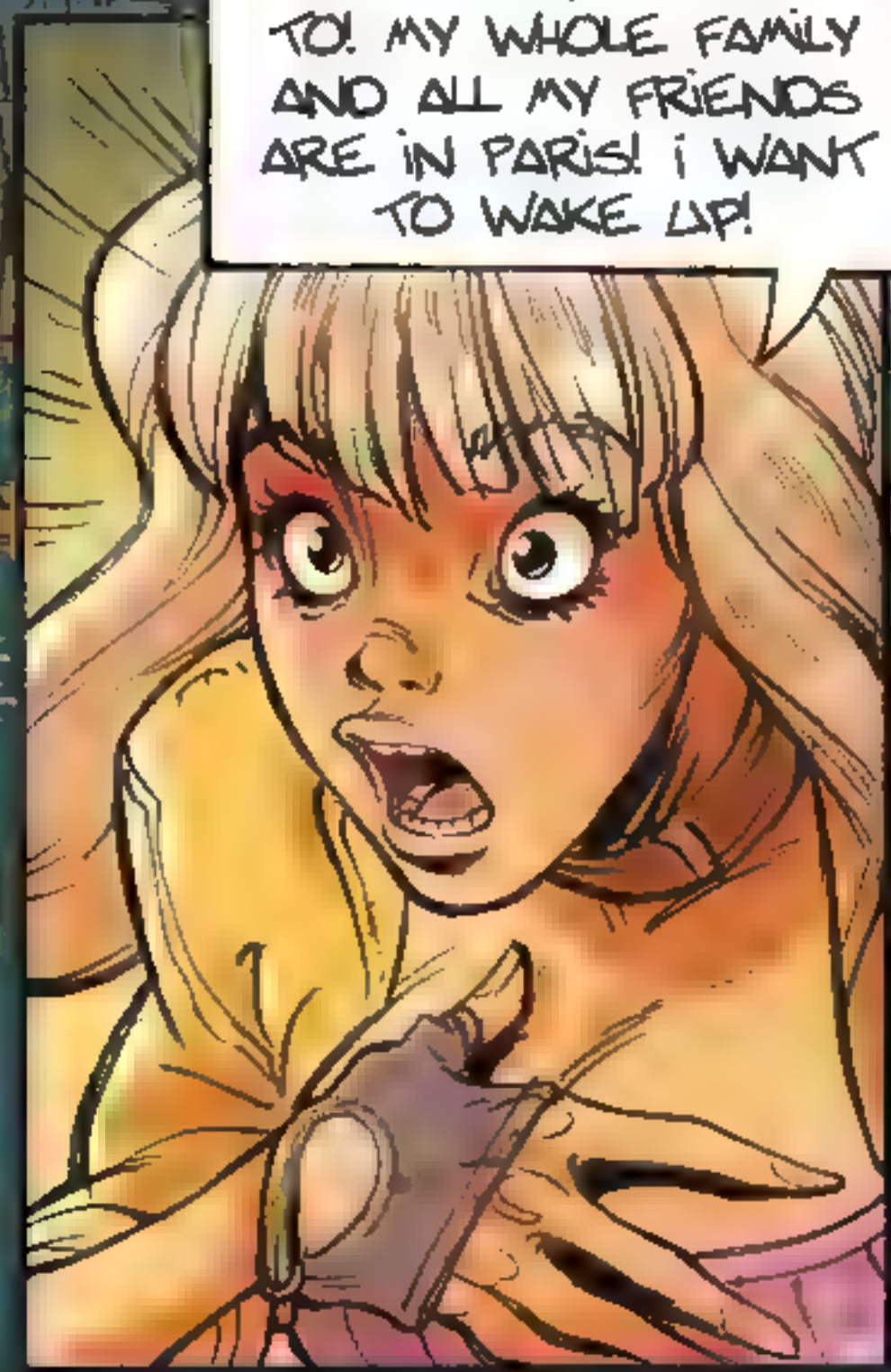


YOU ARE IN EXHO. THE MIRROR WORLD. THIS PLACE IS ALWAYS A SHOCK FOR HUMANS COMING FROM THE OTHER SIDE, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO IT.

FROM NOW ON YOU'RE GOING TO LIVE HERE.



BUT I DON'T WANT TO! MY WHOLE FAMILY AND ALL MY FRIENDS ARE IN PARIS! I WANT TO WAKE UP!



YOU'RE CONTROLLING THIS DREAM, AREN'T YOU? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME, SIR



I WAS EXPECTING MISS GRATULE ALONE, TO DEAL WITH THE SUCCESSION MATTER

SIGSBERT, CAN YOU EXPLAIN?



AHEM... IT LOOKS LIKE MISS GRATILE GRABBED HER NEIGHBOR'S ARM DURING THE TRANSFER AND... HERE'S THE RESULT.



AN ACCIDENTAL ARRIVAL BY CONTACT! THAT'S EXTREMELY REGRETTABLE! SIGSBERT, YOU'LL HAVE TO PRODUCE A REPORT, FOUR COPIES!



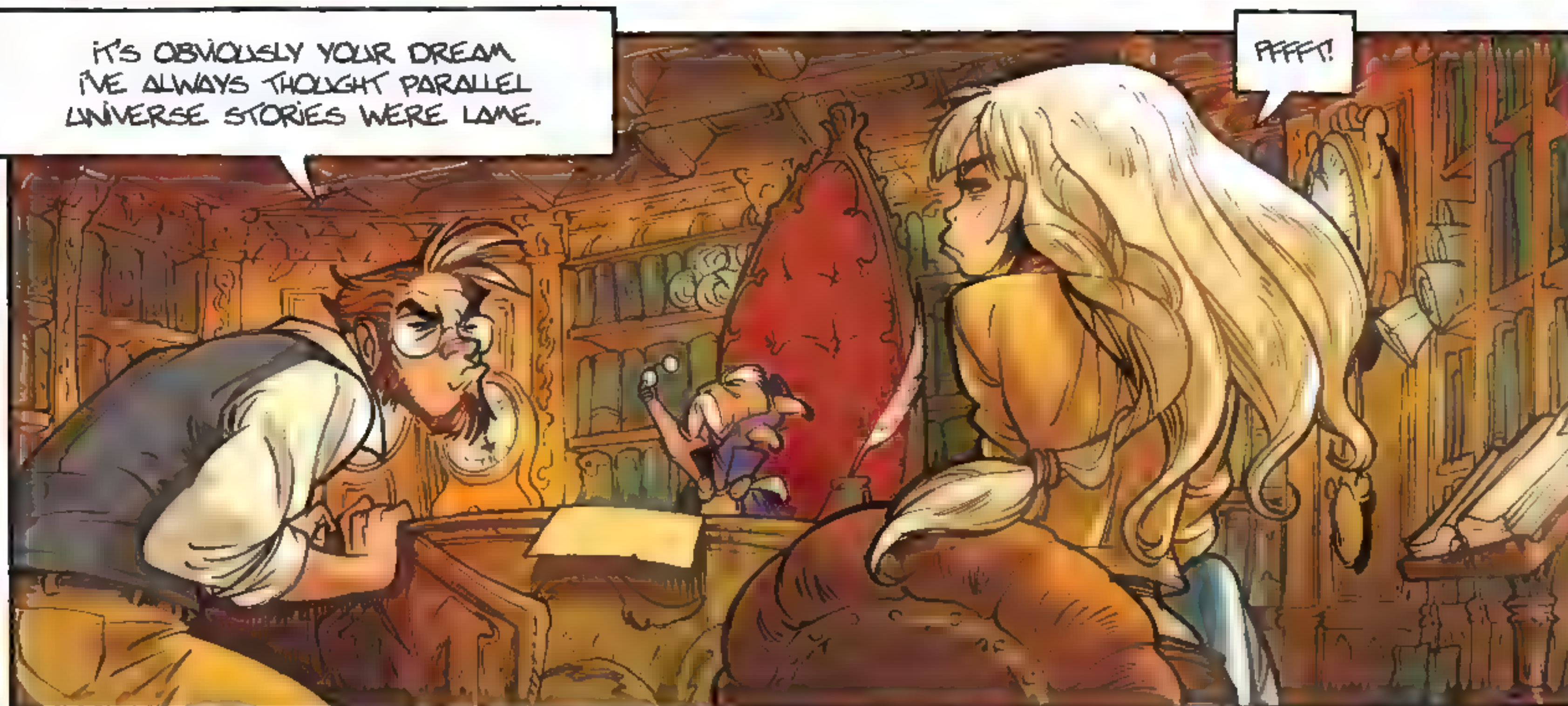
THERE ARE RULES!

LISTEN, THIS IS BOTHERING US AS MUCH AS YOU, SO JUST SEND US BACK HOME AND EVERYBODY'S HAPPY, OK?



I'M AFRAID IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

IT'S OBVIOUSLY YOUR DREAM I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT PARALLEL UNIVERSE STORIES WERE LAME.



FFFFT!

SIR, EKHO IS NOT A PARALLEL UNIVERSE! IT'S THE PHILOPLASMATIC EXTENSION OF AN ALTERNATIVE REALITY THAT WAS BUILT AND SUSTAINED THANKS TO A PATIENT WORK OF THALMIC ENERGY!

SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR A WORK THAT HAS REQUIRED SUCH EFFORTS!



WHAT'S THIS GIBBERISH??

AND YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE! YET, IT'S EASY, YOU'RE IN EKHO AND LEAVING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

I URGE YOU TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO KEEP LIVING IN THIS WORLD.



WELL... NEVER MIND, I'M GOING TO WAKE UP ANY MINUTE NOW...



WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME. IT'S NEARLY TEA TIME.

MISS GRATILE, HERE IS THE CONTENT OF THE INHERITANCE.



OH!





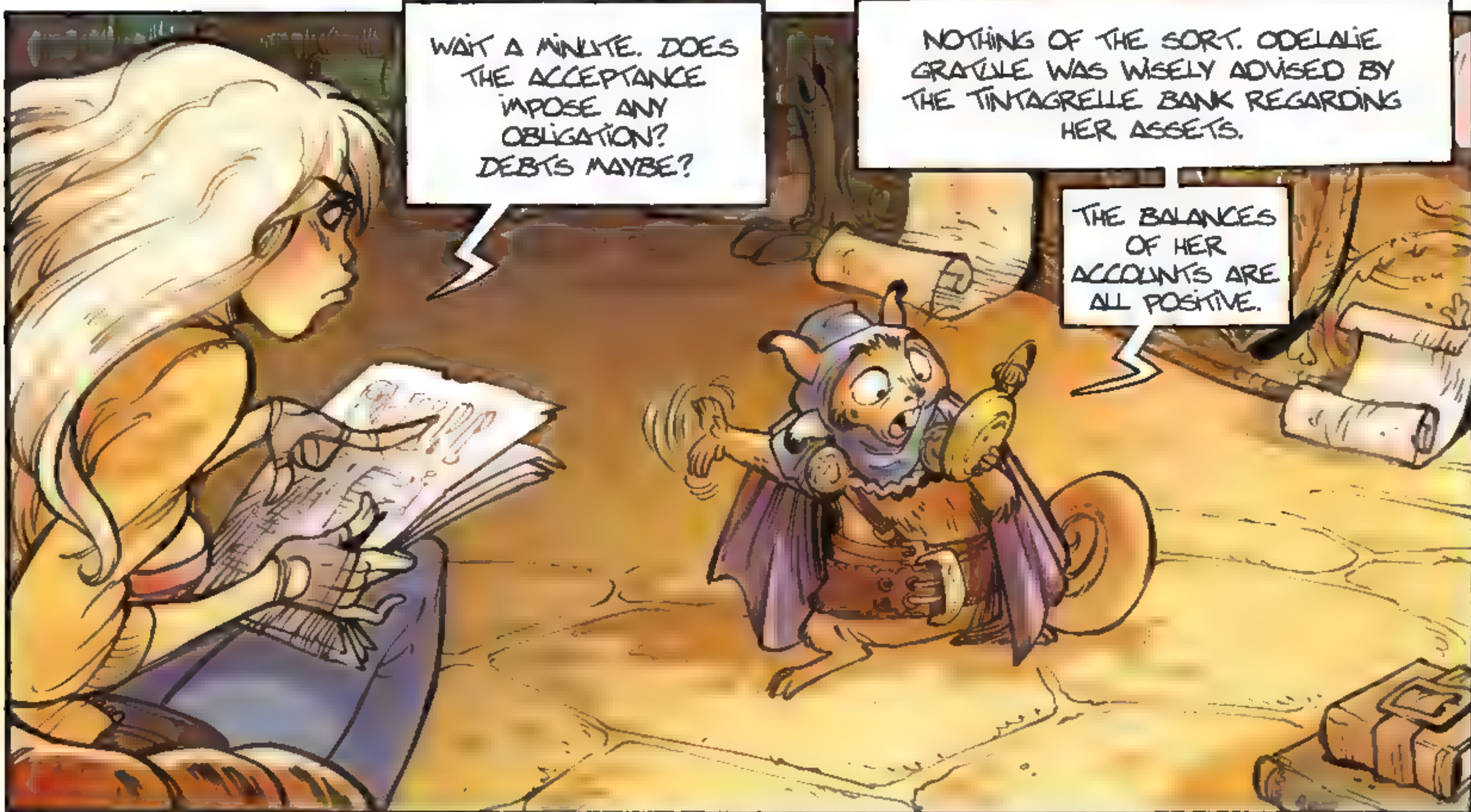
I WAS THE OWNER OF AN AGENCY. WHAT KIND OF AGENCY? TRAVEL? INVESTIGATION? I HAD A LOT OF QUESTIONS, BUT I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING THAT MADE SENSE.

"GRATULE AGENCY, DON'T GIVE UP EASILY."

THIS IS LAME!

YOUR AUNT WAS VERY PROUD OF HER MOTTO.

SIGN HERE FOR ACCEPTANCE.



WAIT A MINUTE. DOES THE ACCEPTANCE IMPOSE ANY OBLIGATION? DEBTS MAYBE?

NOTHING OF THE SORT. ODELAIE GRATULE WAS WISELY ADVISED BY THE TINTAGRELLE BANK REGARDING HER ASSETS.

THE BALANCES OF HER ACCOUNTS ARE ALL POSITIVE.



JUST SIGN, I HAVE TO ESCORT YOU OUT IMMEDIATELY!



I'M NOT SIGNING ANYTHING SO HASTILY. WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHY WE SHOULD LEAVE SO QUICKLY?



COME ON, IT'S TEEEEE TIME!



WE PRESALINS HAVE OUR LITTLE QUIRKS. TEA TIME IS A SACRED MOMENT REQUIRING MEDITATION.



TEEEEEE! TEEEEE! TEEEEE!



THE INHERITANCE! ARE YOU SIGNING IT? YES? NO?



YES, YES, ALL RIGHT!

SCRITCH SCRITCH

IT'S TIME!

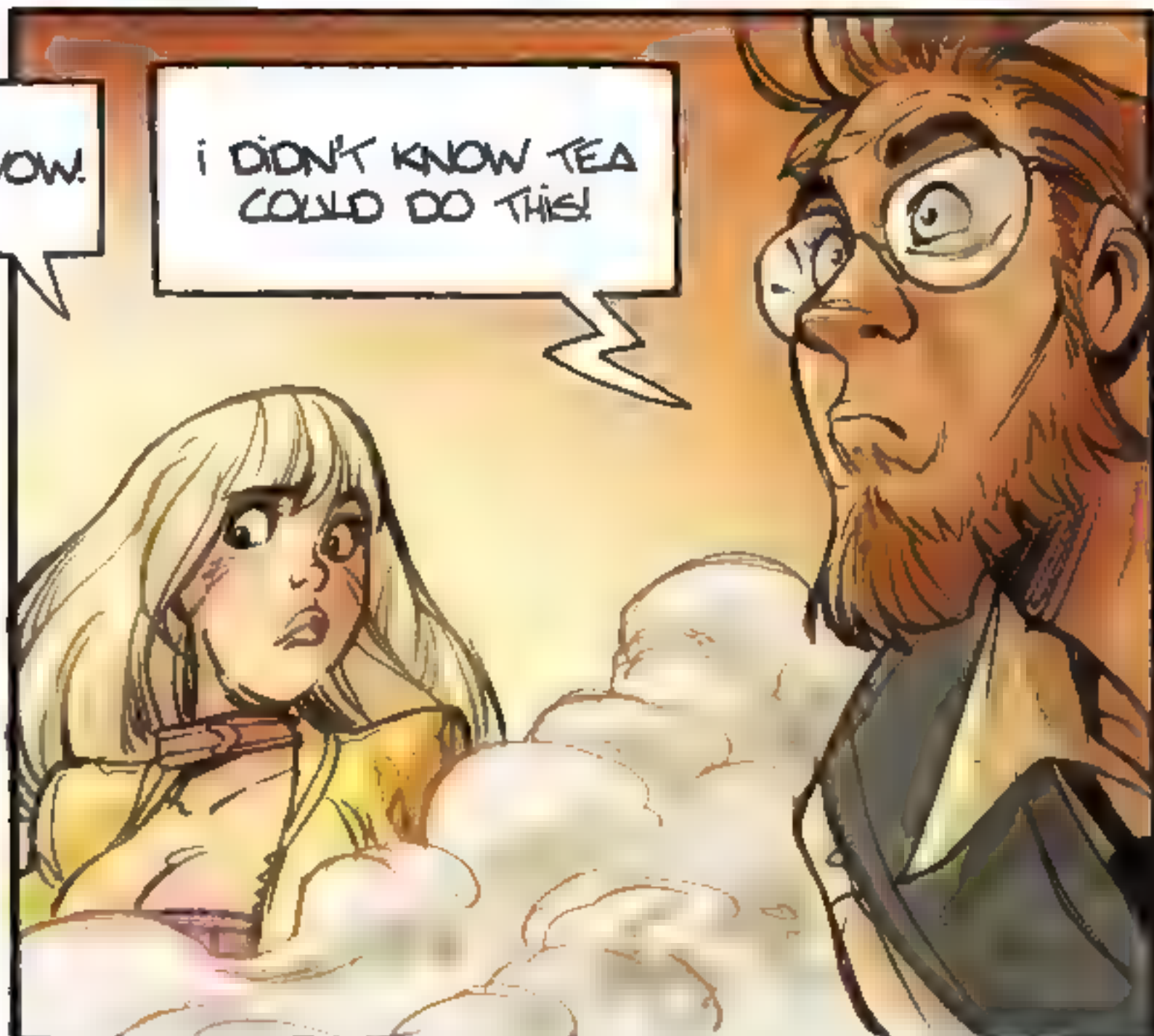


THE FIRST CONTACT
WITH FRESHLYN TEA
TIME CAN BE PRETTY
TRAUMATIC



WOW.

I DIDN'T KNOW TEA
COULD DO THIS!



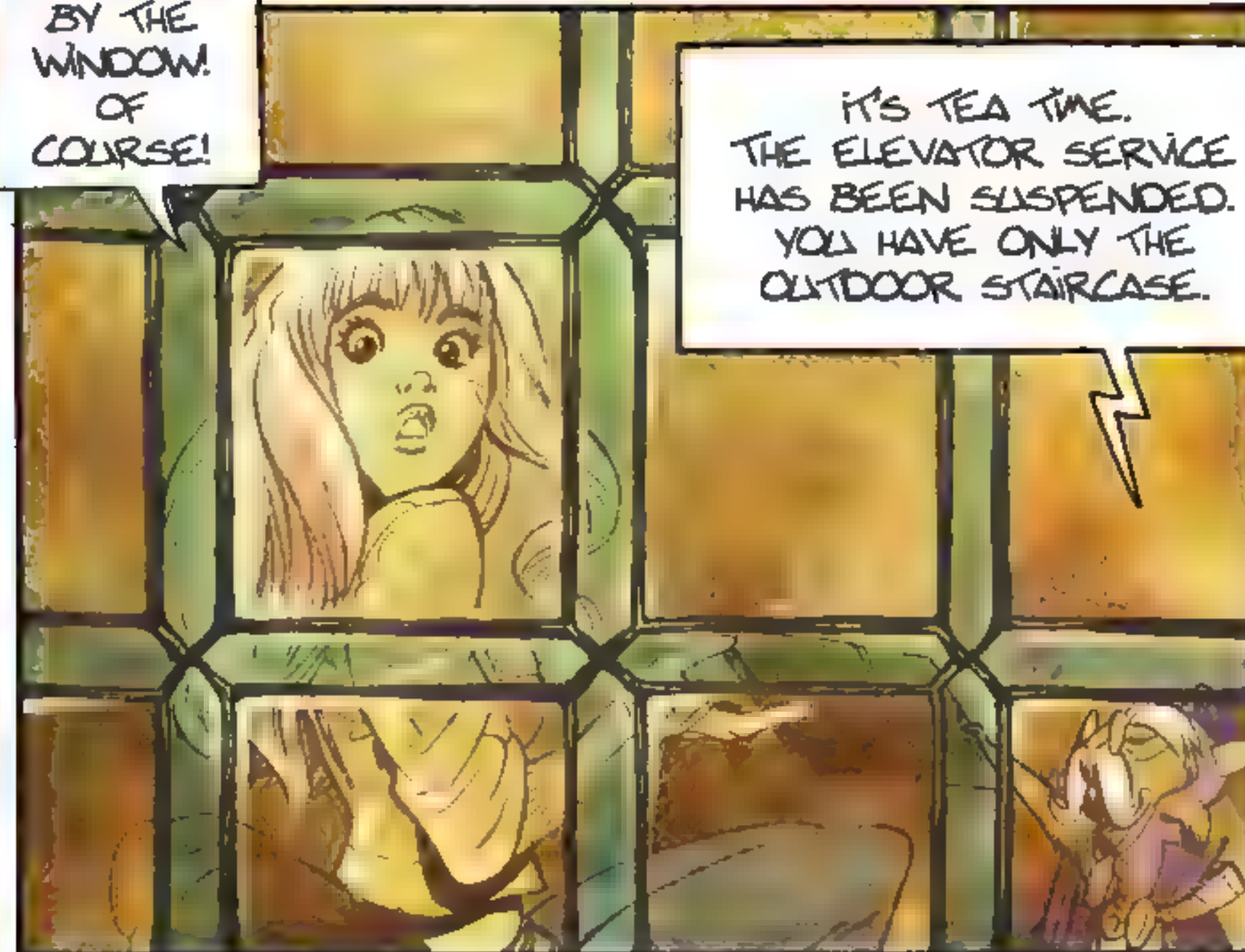
I AM AT YOUR
DISPOSAL TO
ANSWER ANY
QUESTIONS.

BUT NOT
NOW. YOU
CAN LEAVE
BY THE
WINDOW.



BY THE
WINDOW.
OF
COURSE!

IT'S TEA TIME.
THE ELEVATOR SERVICE
HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.
YOU HAVE ONLY THE
OUTDOOR STAIRCASE.



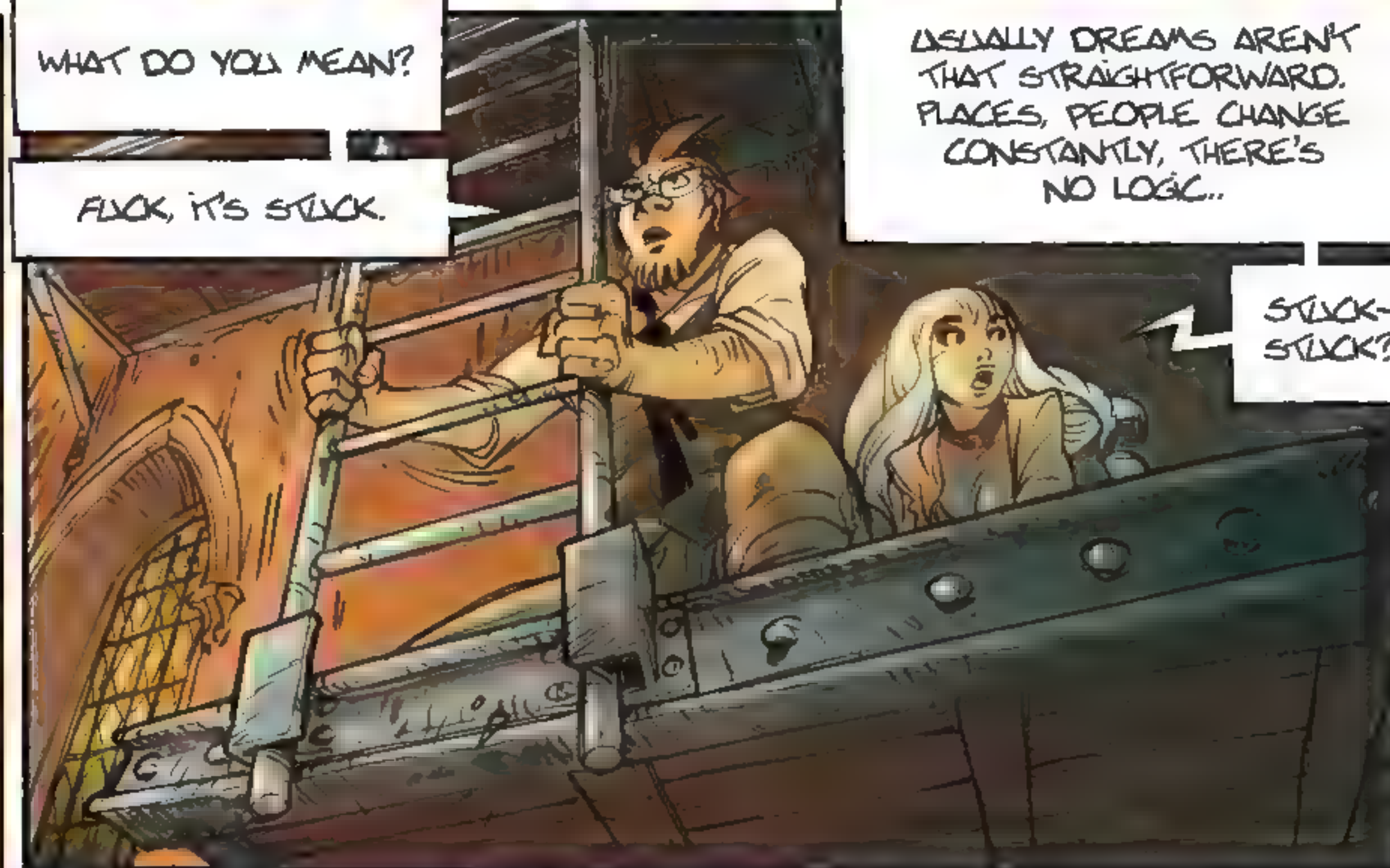
FOR A STUPID
DREAM, IT'S
REALLY STUPID!

I FEEL IT'S RUNNING
TOO LONG.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

FLUX, IT'S STUCK.



USUALLY DREAMS AREN'T
THAT STRAIGHTFORWARD.
PLACES, PEOPLE CHANGE
CONSTANTLY, THERE'S
NO LOGIC...

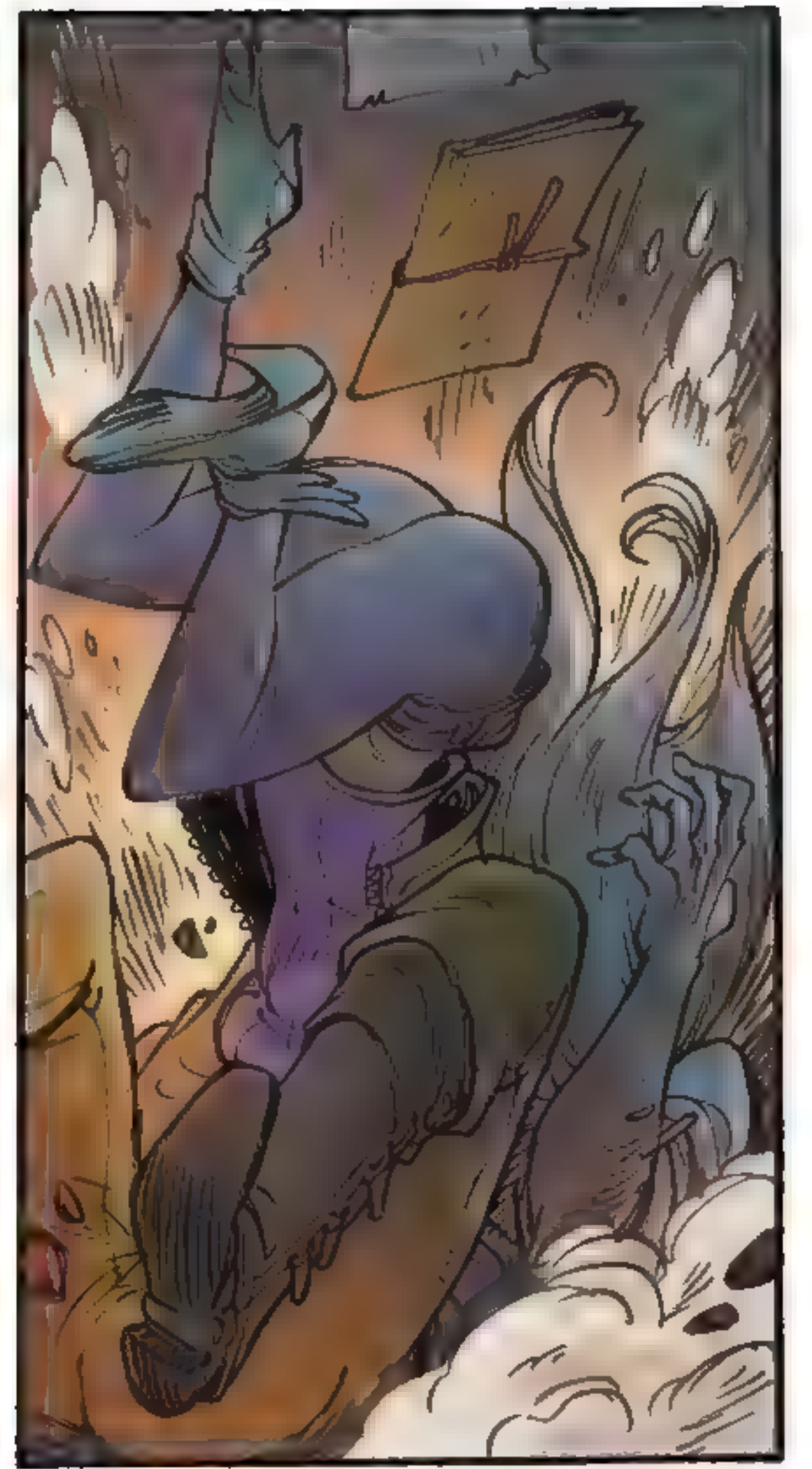
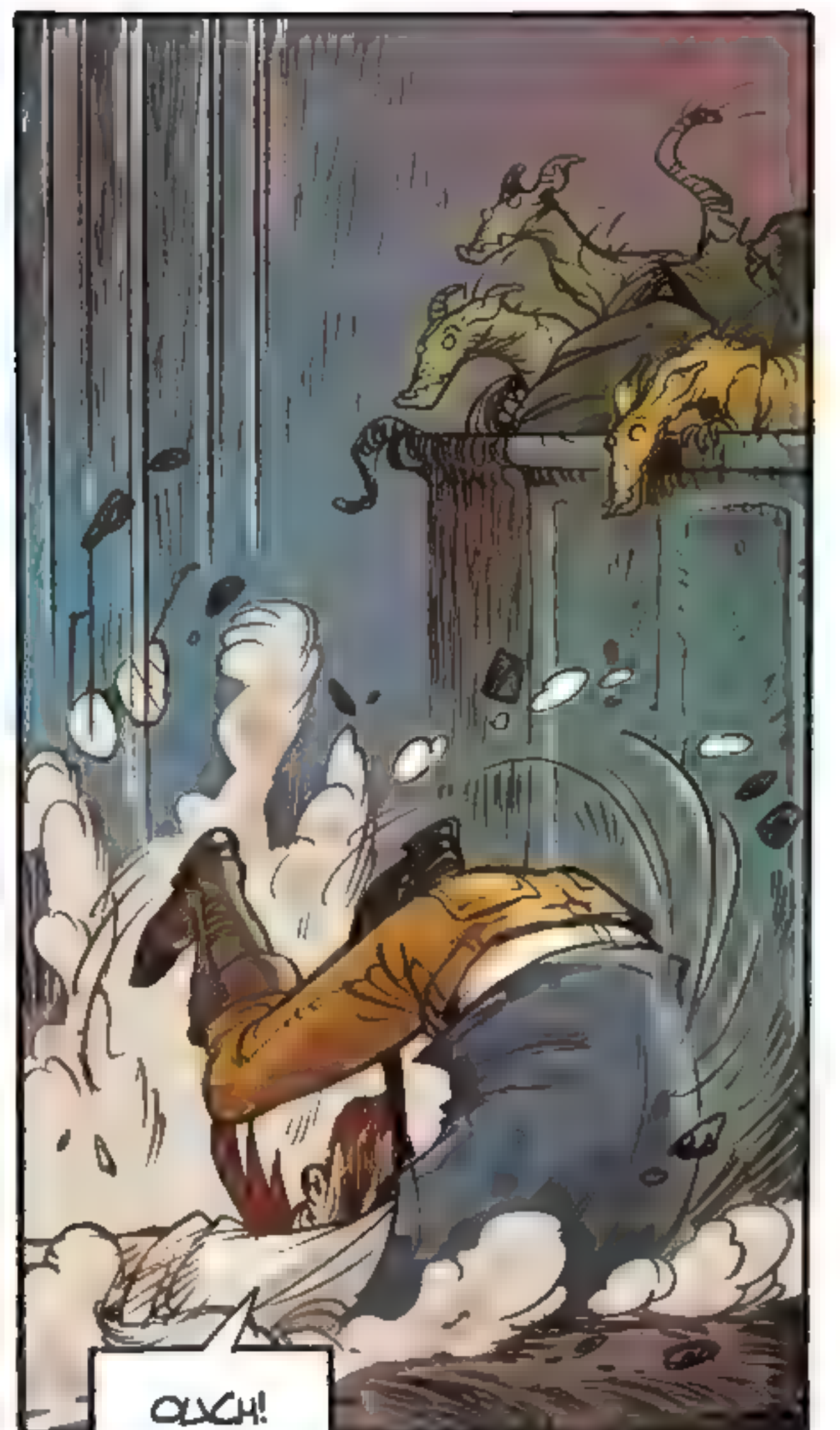
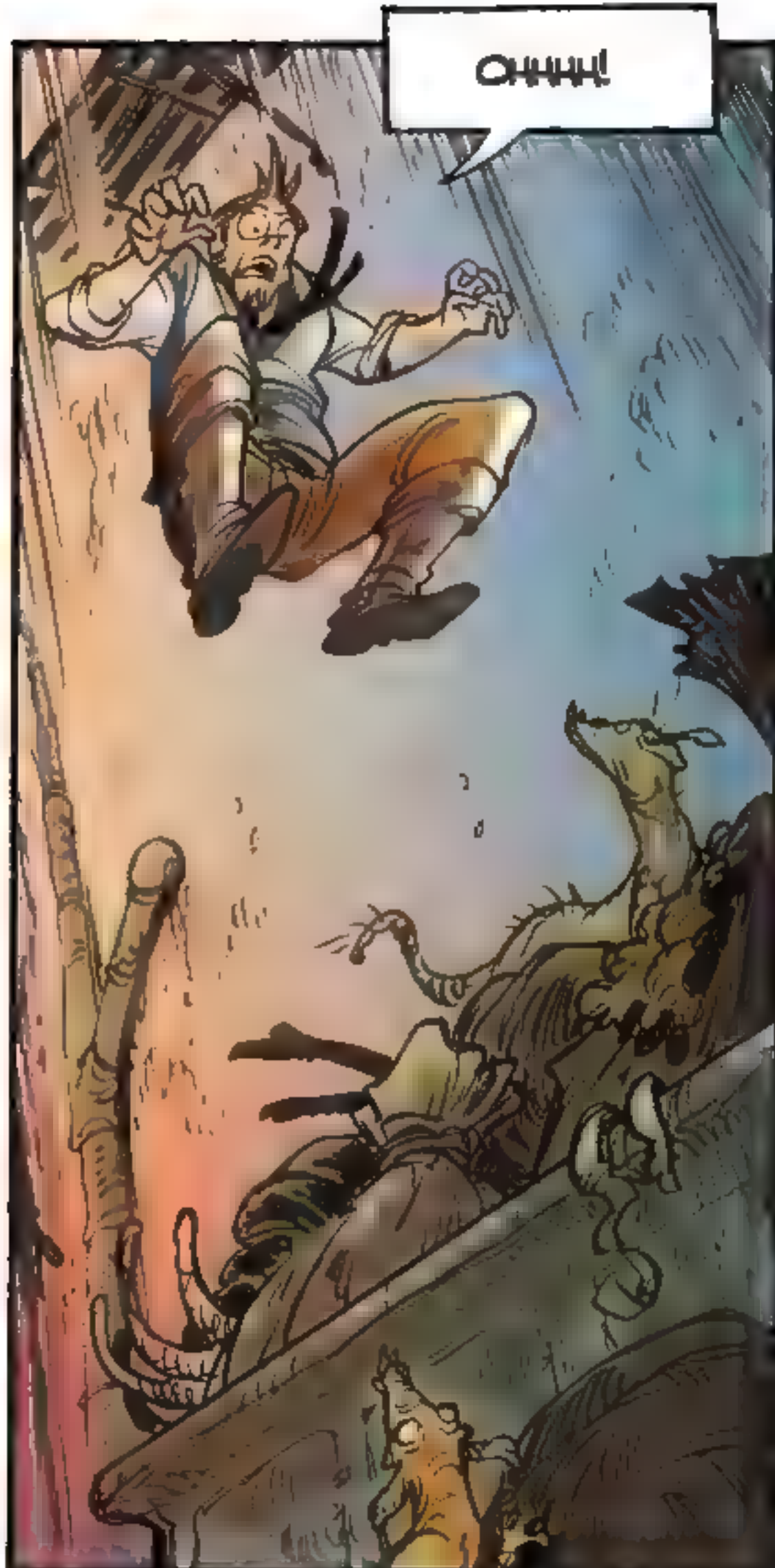
STUCK-
STUCK?

STUCK-STUCK

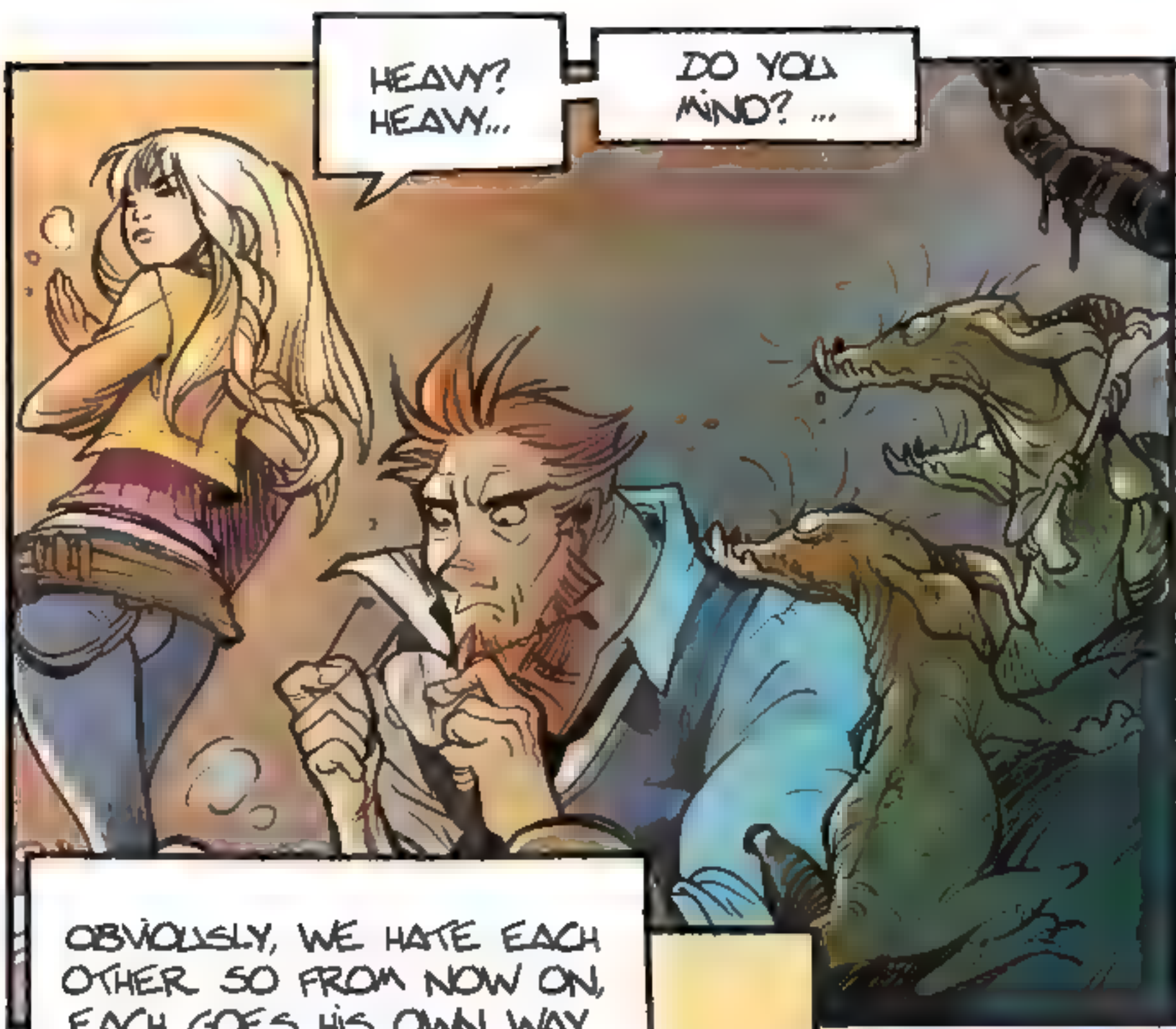
BECAUSE YOU FIND THAT
EVERYTHING IS LOGICAL
AND COHERENT HERE?

WELL, WE'LL SEE. IN
THE MEANTIME, YOU'RE
JUMPING OFF AND THEN
YOU CATCH ME, OK?





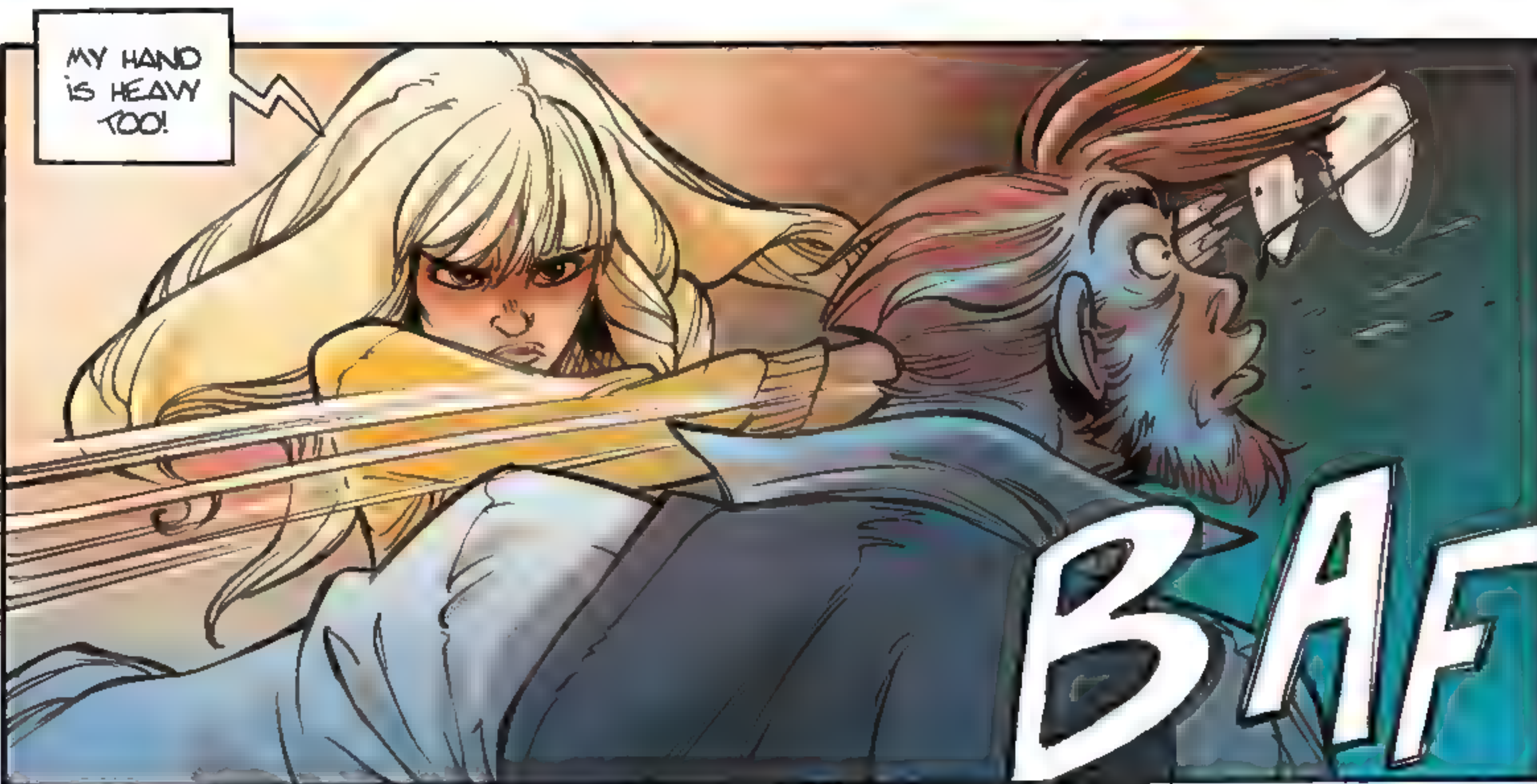
NOW, THAT WAS TOO MUCH. THE FRUSTRATION OF FEELING STUCK THERE, THE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING, THE ANGER... AND THIS GUY DECIDES TO TALK ABOUT MY WEIGHT!



HEAVY?
HEAVY...

DO YOU
MIND? ...

OBVIOUSLY, WE HATE EACH
OTHER SO FROM NOW ON,
EACH GOES HIS OWN WAY.



MY HAND
IS HEAVY
TOO!

BAF



TO EACH ONE HIS
OWN DREAM, EACH
ONE HIS OWN FATE.

ALL RIGHT.

PERFECT.



WHO DOES
HE THINK HE IS?
WE DON'T EVEN
KNOW EACH
OTHER AND HE
COMES INTO MY
LIFE, LIKE THIS..



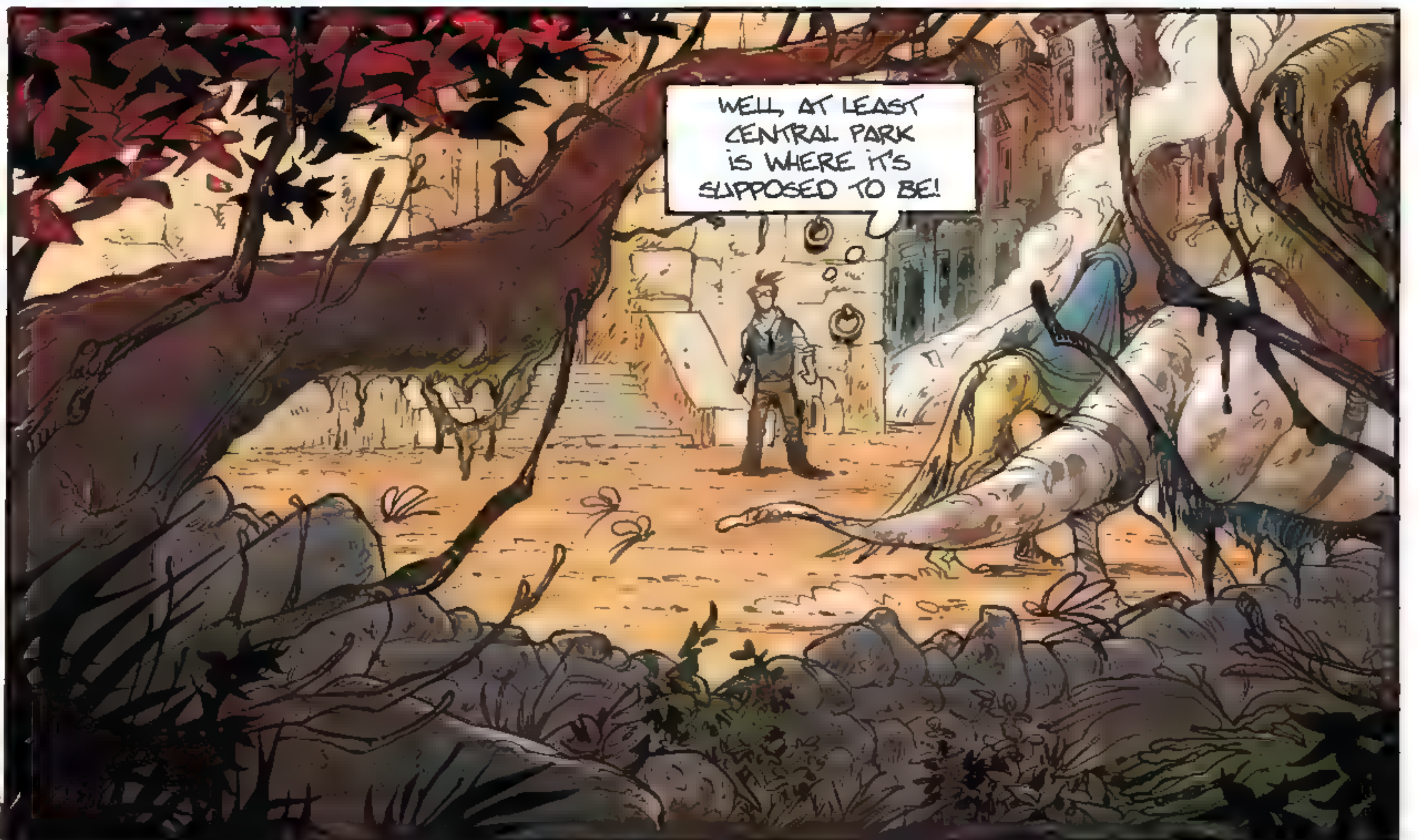
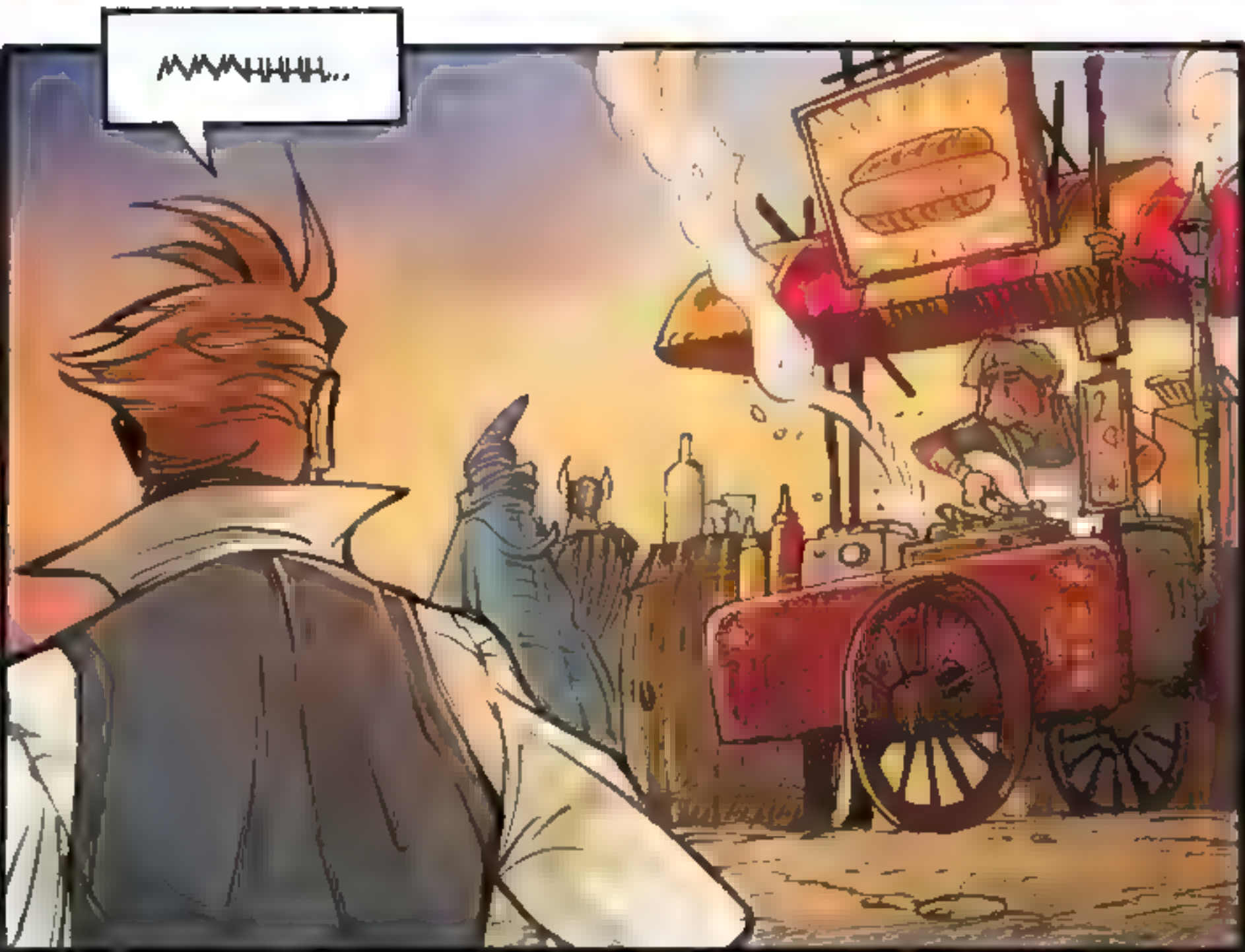
FREAKING
HYSTERICAL
BRAT!



ON THE OTHER HAND, IF
I UNDERSTAND IT WELL,
IT'S KINDA MY FAULT... IF
I HADN'T GRABBED HIS
ARM ON THE PLANE...



IT'S ENOUGH TO UPSET
ANYBODY THOUGH,
I UNDERSTAND HER..



I WAS FEELING A LITTLE GUILTY FOR TELLING YURI TO GO TO HELL BUT IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO SEE WHAT WAS NEXT...



LAST FLOOR... WELL, AT LEAST THERE'S AN ELEVATOR!



CROUCROUBLINGBLON
KUNGBONKINBOUIN



?? THERE'S NOTHING, HERE!



AH...



GREAT...



THIS WAY!

YOU MUST BE THE YOUNG MISS GRATITUDE?

?



GRACE LUMUMBA, YOUR LATE AUNT'S SECRETARY AND CO-WORKER

FOURVILLE... ERM... IN FACT, I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I'M DOING HERE.



IT'S NORMAL BAGPIPES ALWAYS FEEL A BIT LOST AT THE BEGINNING. I'M A NATIVE, SO IT'S THE OTHER SIDE THAT SEEMS STRANGE FOR ME.



ERM... WELL, WELL BUT... WHAT KIND OF AGENCY IS THIS?

WE REPRESENT ABOUT TWENTY THEATER ACTORS, THE SAME NUMBER OF SINGERS PERFORMING IN TAVERNS, SOME MUSICIANS, AN ILLUSIONIST, A FEMALE WRESTLING TEAM, AN ORCHESTRA LEADER AND TWO STRIPPERS...

THE FAMOUS INCREDIBLE TWINS! A BLACK GIRL AND A WHITE ONE, YUMMA AND YUMMY.



I HAPPEN TO BE YUMMA. MY JOB AS SECRETARY IS TO MAKE A LIVING, BUT MY TRUE PASSION IS THE ART OF NAKEDNESS.



WELL, YOU SEEM TO KNOW WHERE I COME FROM, BUT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HERE! CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT TO ME?

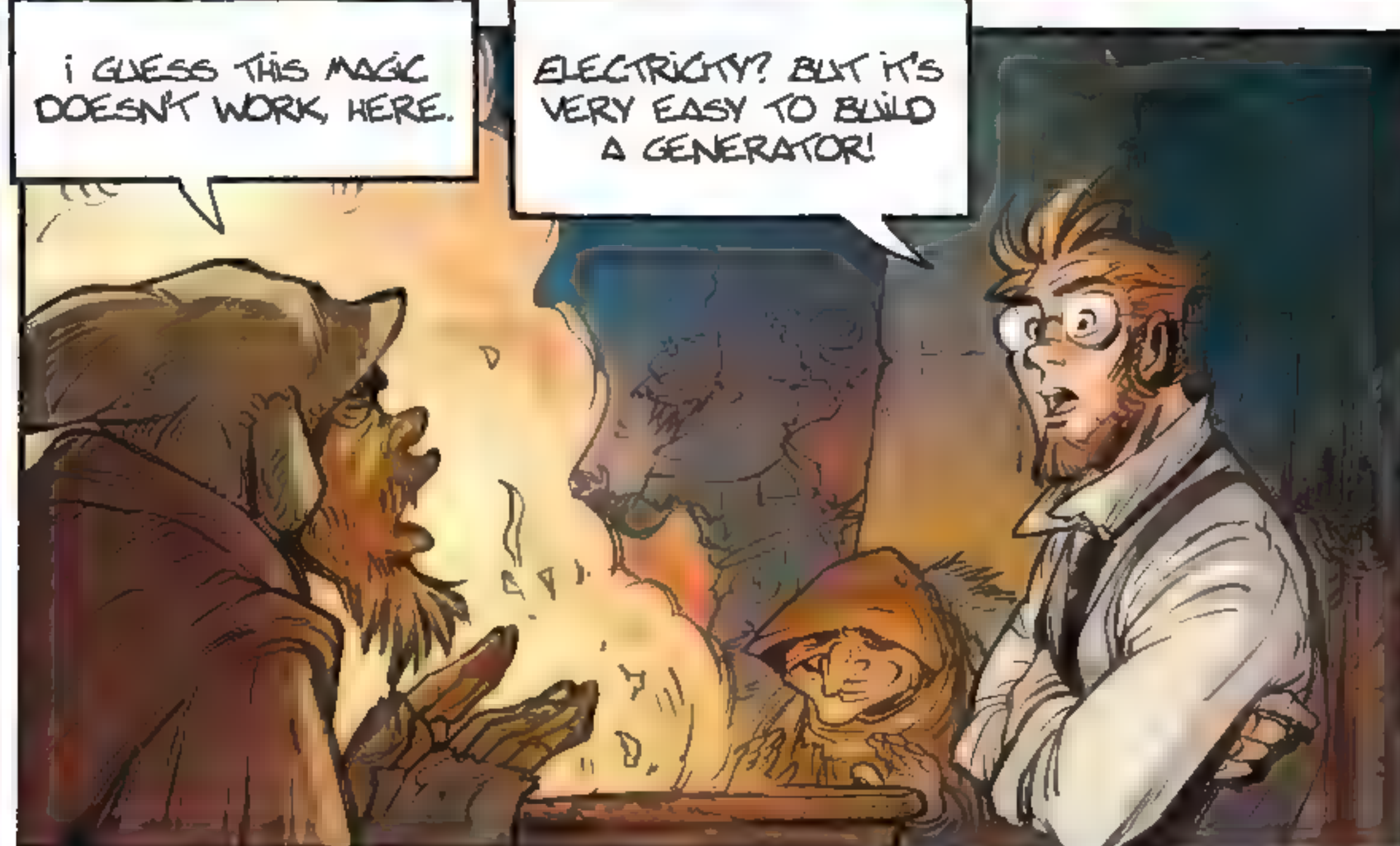


SO, EXHO, IS EXHO. WE KNOW WE ARE COMMUNICATING WITH ANOTHER WORLD BECAUSE SOMETIMES PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARRIVE...



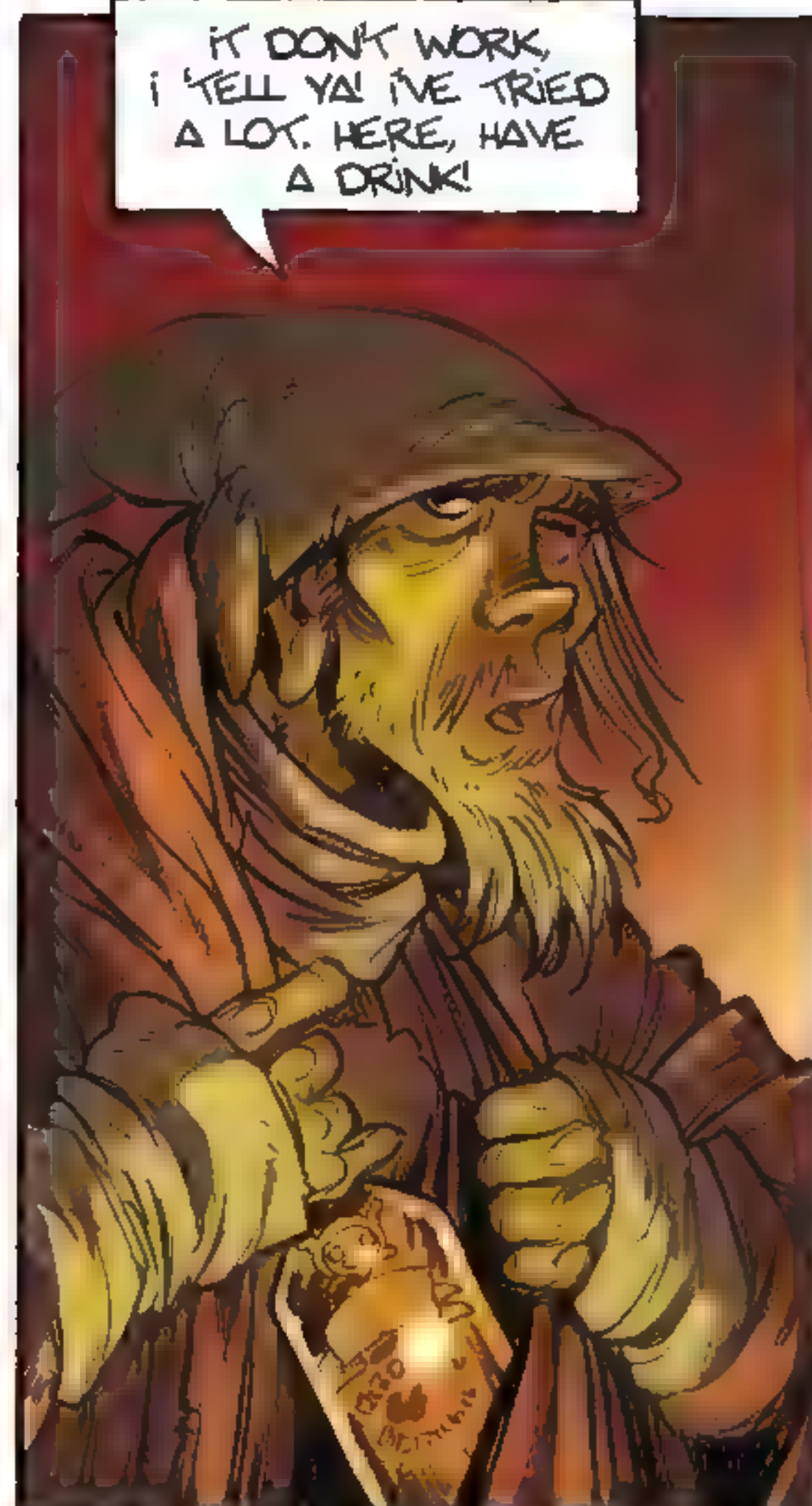
BUT NO ONE EVER GOES BACK - THAT'S IT!

NOW, THE BAGPIPES USE TO TELL US ABOUT MAGICAL THINGS LIKE ELECTRICITY, THE STUFF THAT LIGHTS UP BETTER THAN CANDLES.



I GUESS THIS MAGIC DOESN'T WORK HERE.

ELECTRICITY? BUT IT'S VERY EASY TO BUILD A GENERATOR!



IT DON'T WORK, I TELL YA I'VE TRIED A LOT. HERE, HAVE A DRINK!



I WOULDN'T MIND ONE, I THINK I NEED IT...

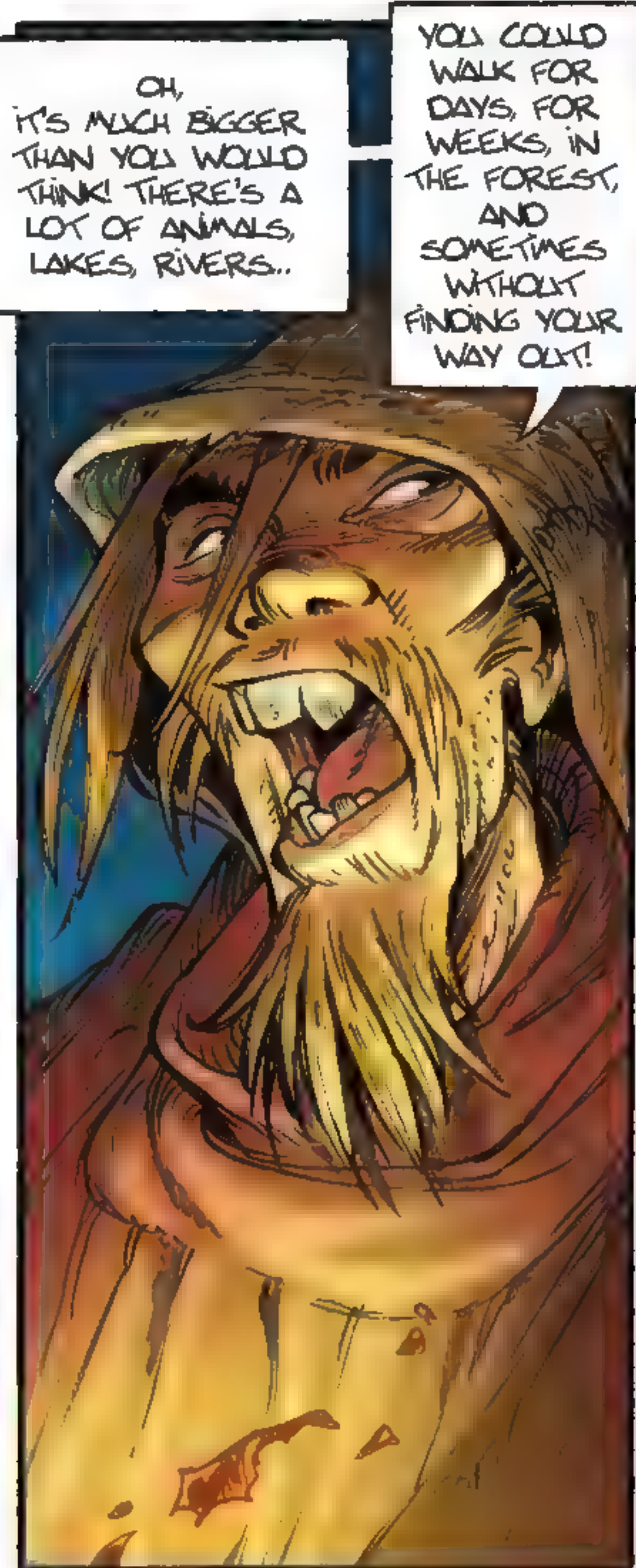


I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF BEING DEAD, EVEN SOMEWHERE ELSE! BUT WHO EXACTLY ARE THOSE PRESALINS?

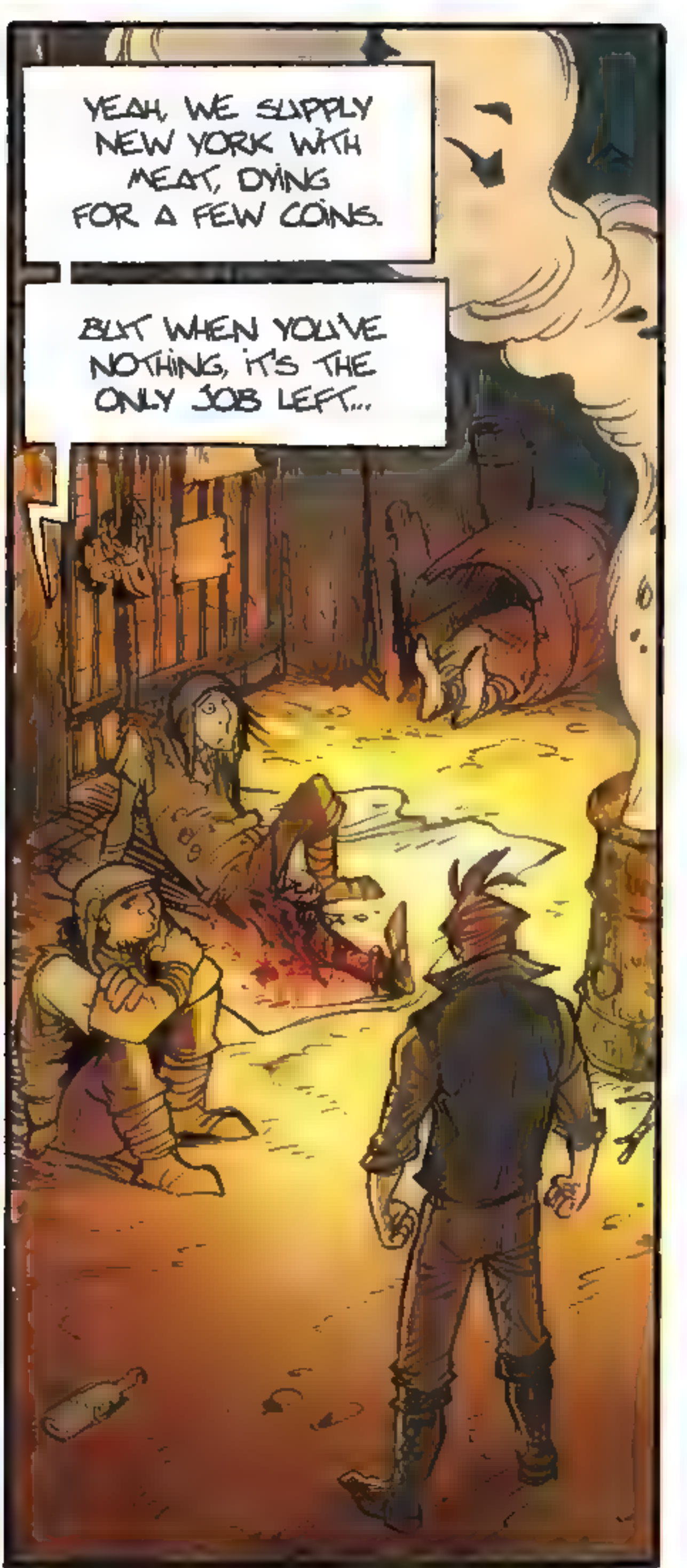
WELL, THEY KEEP THINGS GOING. NOTHING WOULD WORK WITHOUT THEM, LIKE THEIR DAMNED TEA TIME...

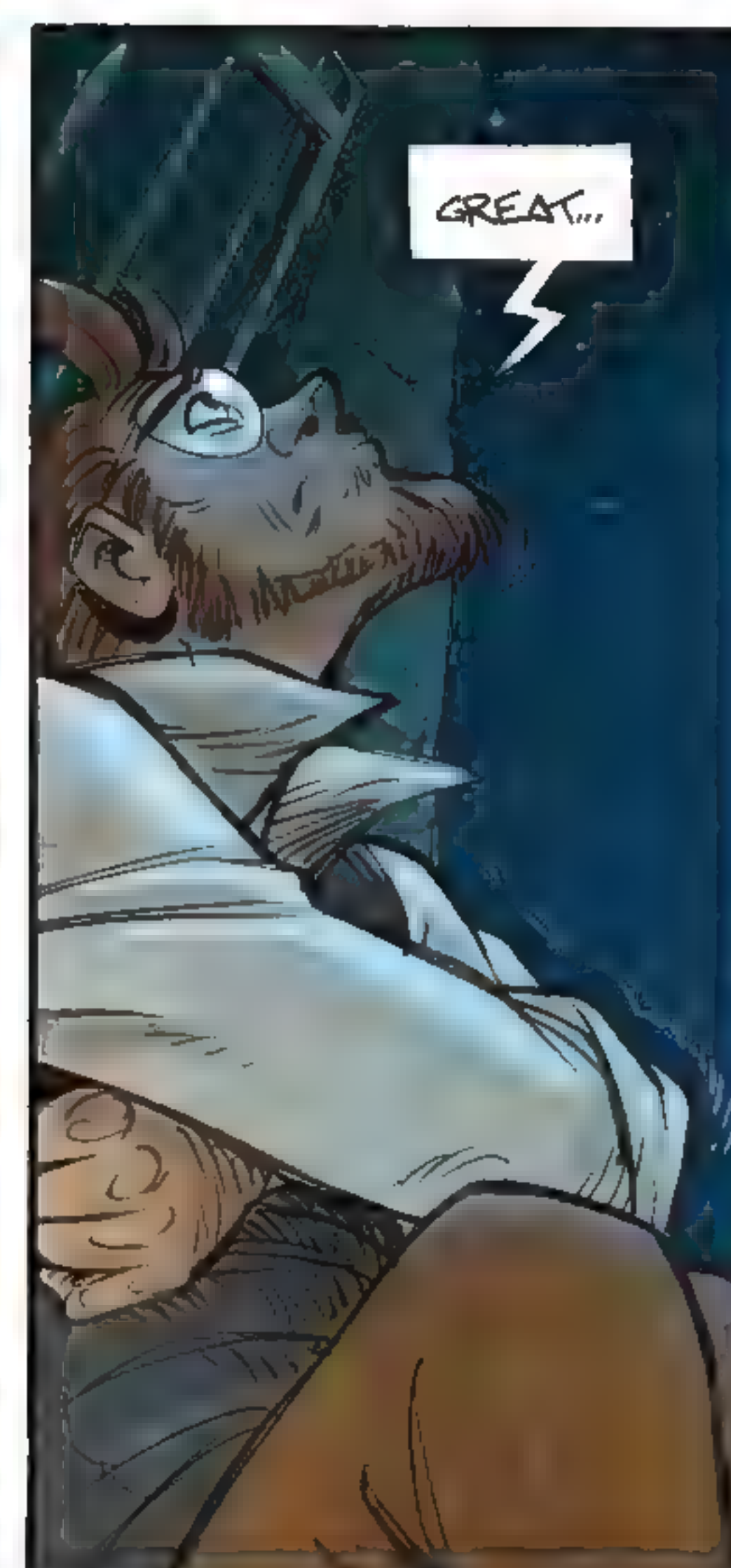
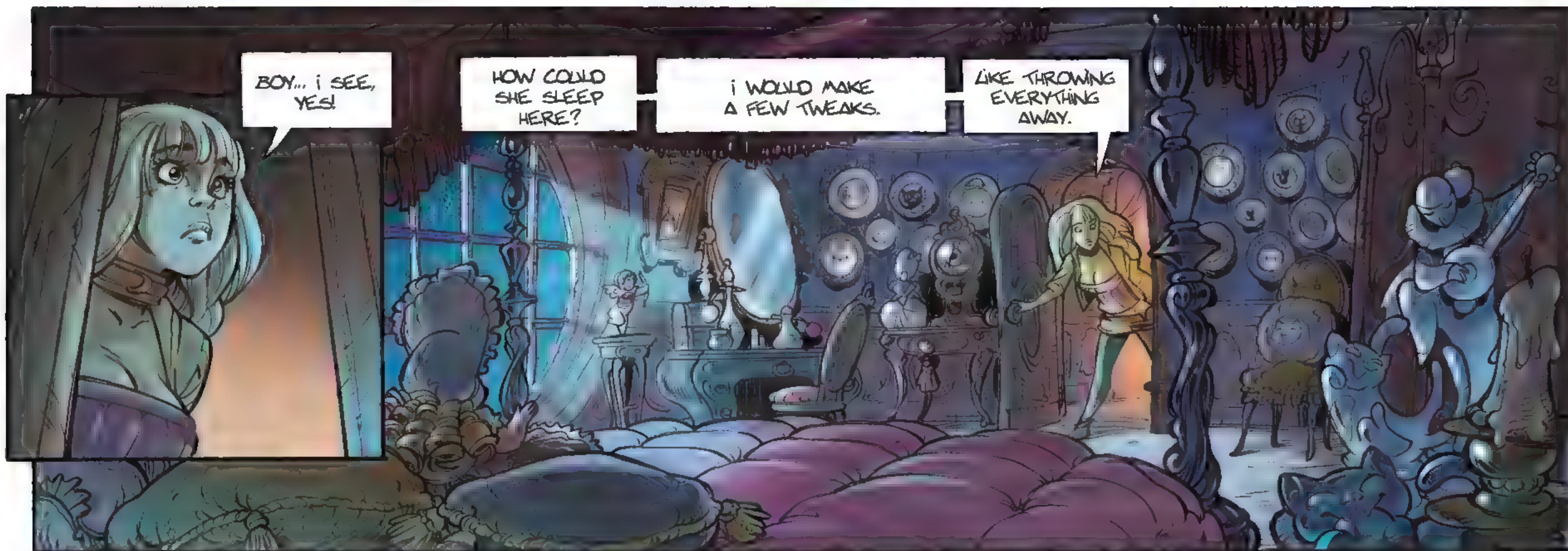
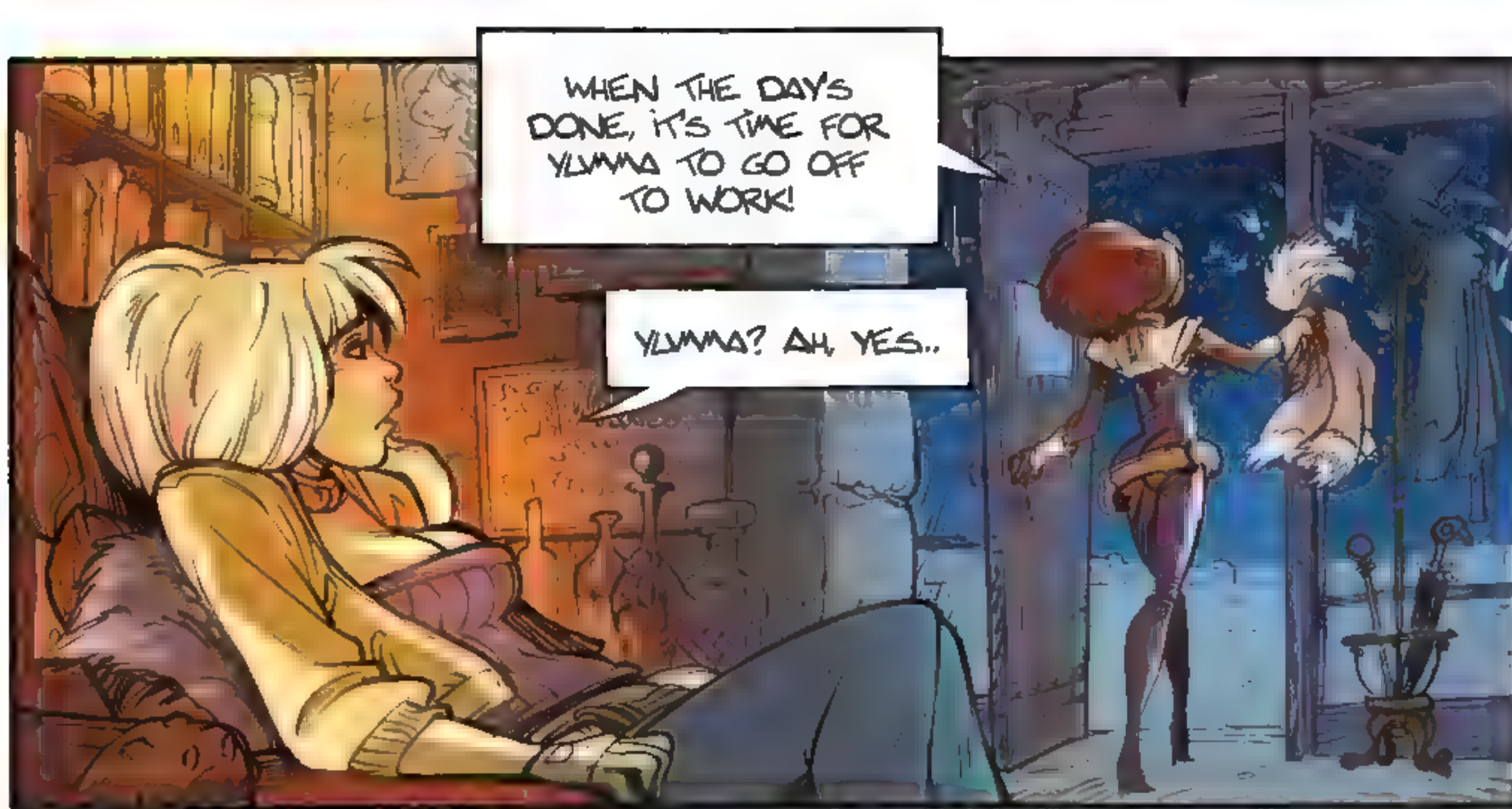
LOOK, HERE'S POWELL AND HIS MEN, BACK FROM HUNTING.

IN CENTRAL PARK?



YOU COULD WALK FOR DAYS, FOR WEEKS, IN THE FOREST, AND SOMETIMES WITHOUT FINDING YOUR WAY OUT!







NEW YORK... NEW YORK... THE SONG
HADN'T LOST A SINGLE TONE FROM
ONE UNIVERSE TO ANOTHER

EXCEPT I CAME TO SPEND
JUST A FEW DAYS AND ENDED
UP STUCK HERE, IN NEW YORK
NEW YORK!

START SPREADING THE NEWS
I'M LEAVING TODAY I WANT
TO BE A PART OF IT
NEW YORK NEW YORK!



AND I WAS SPENDING
MY FIRST NIGHT IN
THE BACKSTAGE OF
A NIGHTCLUB.

YUMMY, I WANT YOU TO MEET
FOURMILLE GRATULE. SHE'S
GOING TO PLAY THE AGENCY
BACK IN BUSINESS.

NICE TO
MEET YOU!

HURRY UP, GIRLS,
YOU'RE UP NEXT!

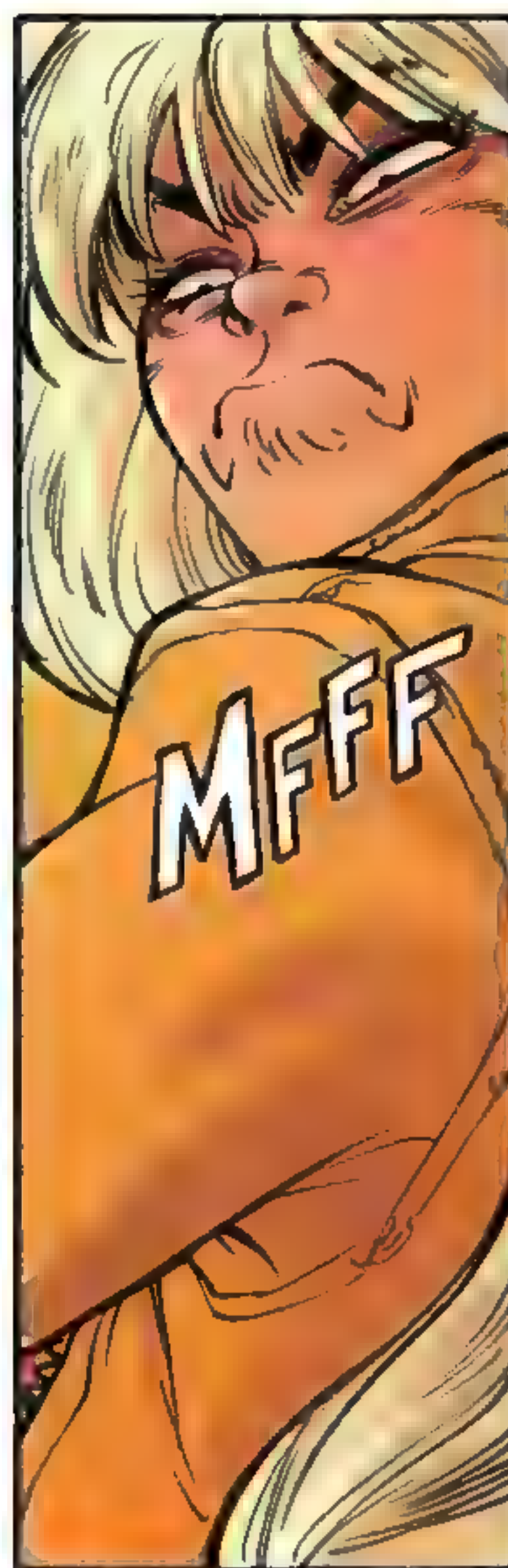


YA BROUGHT A FRIEND?
TO LEARN THE JOB?

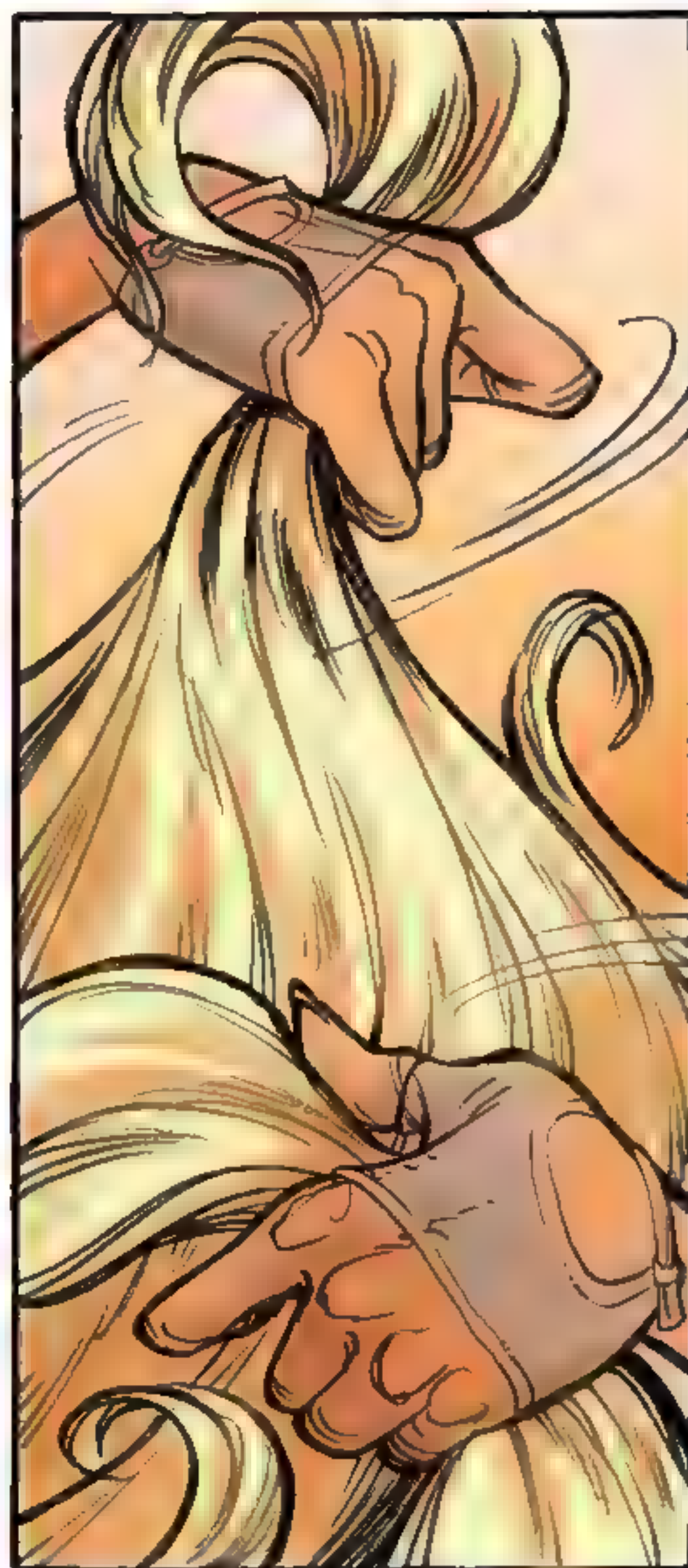
GOOD IDEA,
SHE'S GOT
WHAT IT
TAKES.



HEY HEY



MFFFF



MY LITTLE
BORN
WHAT'S
WITH THE
INTIMACY?

HOW DARE
YOU TOUCH
INAPPROPRIATELY
OLD
ODELAIE
GRATULE?

BUT...
HEY...

WHY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT MRS ODELAIE, MISS?

DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, YOU LITTLE RAT? I REPRESENT HALF OF THE ARTISTS WHO WORK IN YOUR DIVE!



YOU... YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

OF COURSE! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, GRACE?

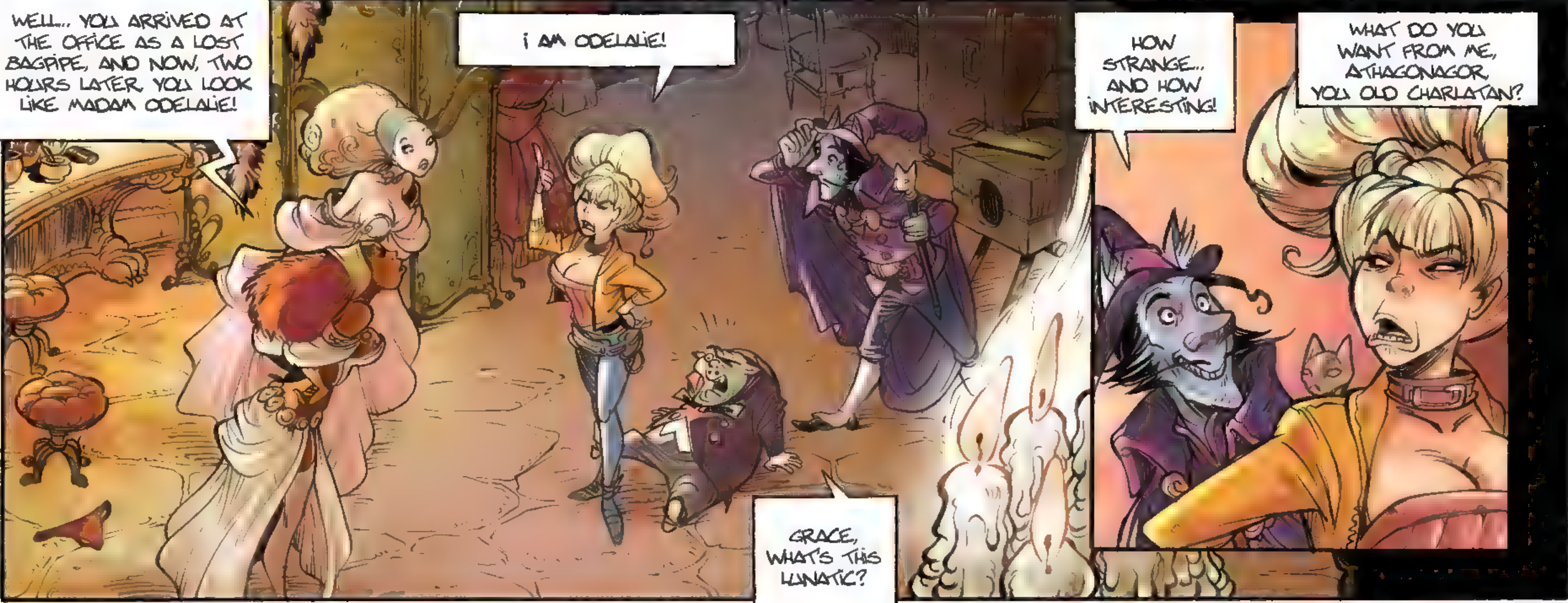


WELL... YOU ARRIVED AT THE OFFICE AS A LOST BAGPIPE, AND NOW, TWO HOURS LATER, YOU LOOK LIKE MADAM ODELAIE!

I AM ODELAIE!

HOW STRANGE... AND HOW INTERESTING!

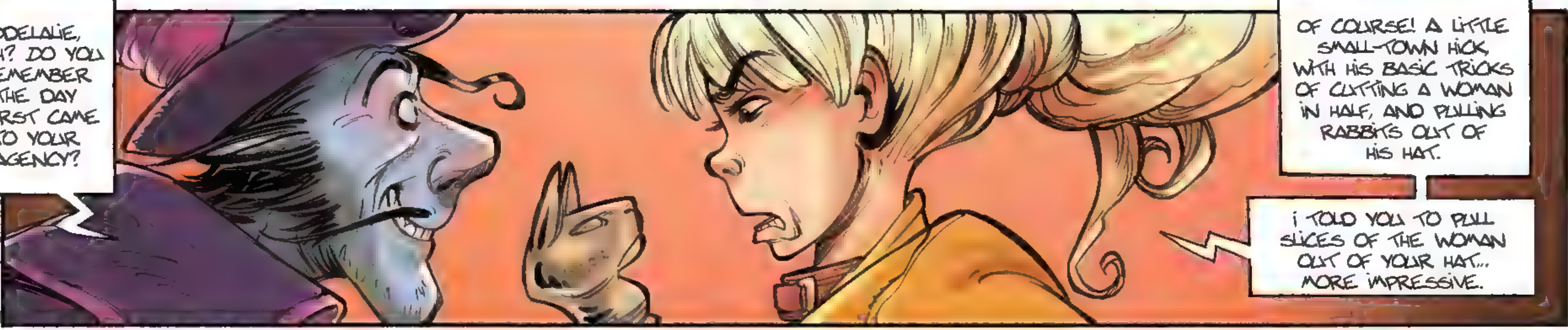
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME, ATHAGONAGOR, YOU OLD CHARLATAN?



GRACE, WHAT'S THIS LUNATIC?

ODELAIE, MAH? DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY I FIRST CAME TO YOUR AGENCY?

OF COURSE! A LITTLE SMALL-TOWN HICK WITH HIS BASIC TRICKS OF CUTTING A WOMAN IN HALF, AND PULLING RABBITS OUT OF HIS HAT.



I TOLD YOU TO PULL SLICES OF THE WOMAN OUT OF YOUR HAT... MORE IMPRESSIVE.

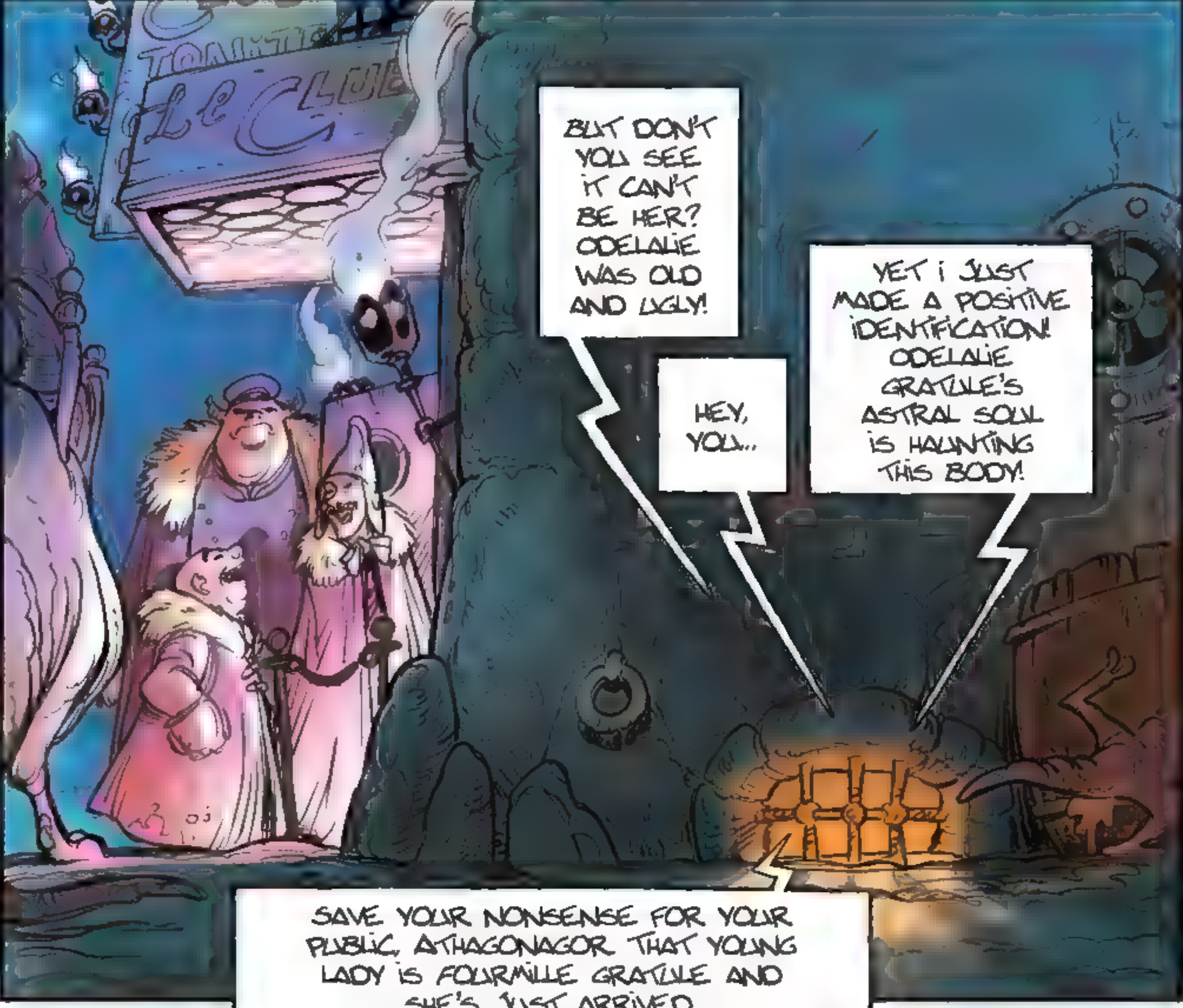
AMAZING! IT'S REALLY YOU!



BUT DON'T YOU SEE IT CAN'T BE HER? ODELAIE WAS OLD AND UGLY!

HEY, YOU...

YET I JUST MADE A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION! ODELAIE GRATILE'S ASTRAL SOUL IS HAUNTING THIS BODY!

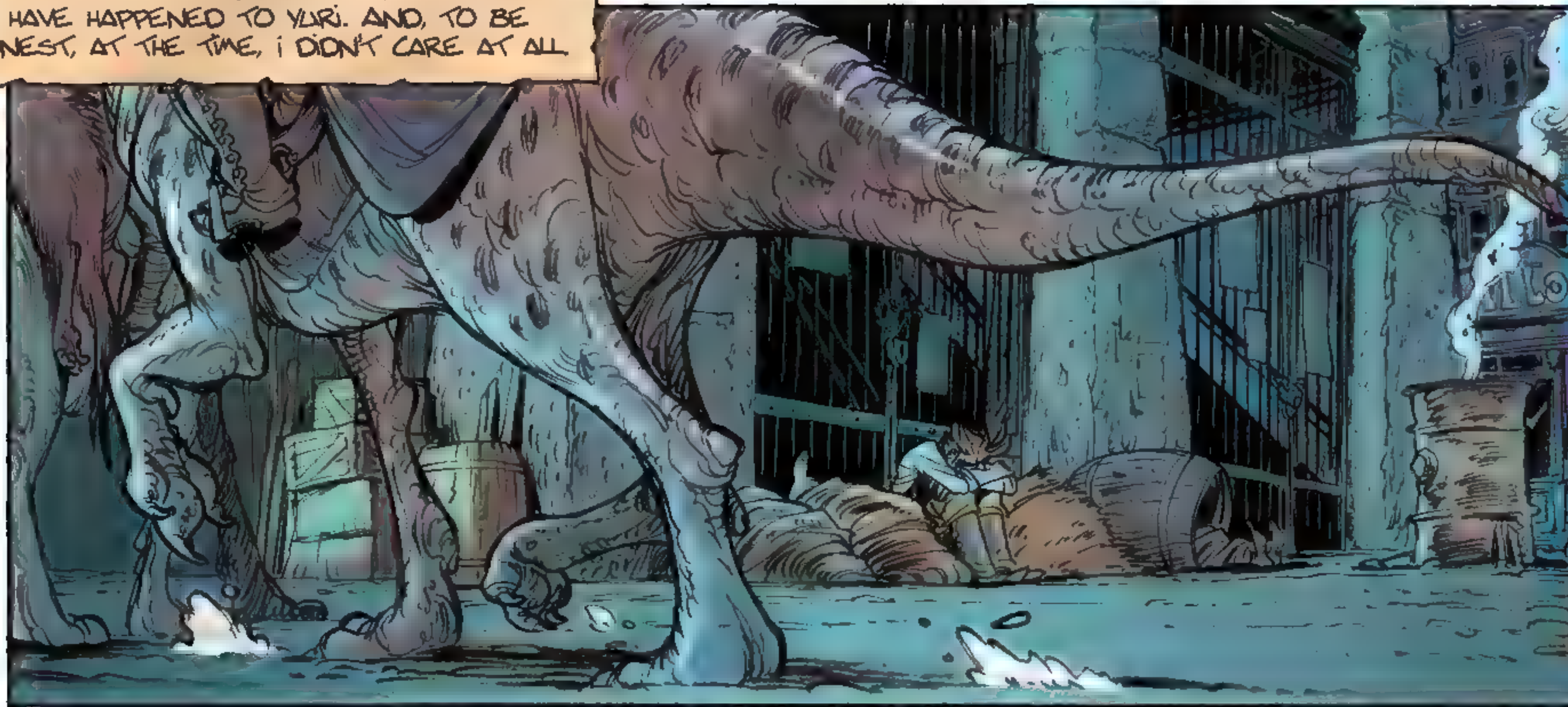


SAVE YOUR NONSENSE FOR YOUR PUBLIC, ATHAGONAGOR. THAT YOUNG LADY IS FOURMILLE GRATILE AND SHE'S JUST ARRIVED.

THERE'S NO DOUBT, SHE'S HAUNTED BY ODELAIE!



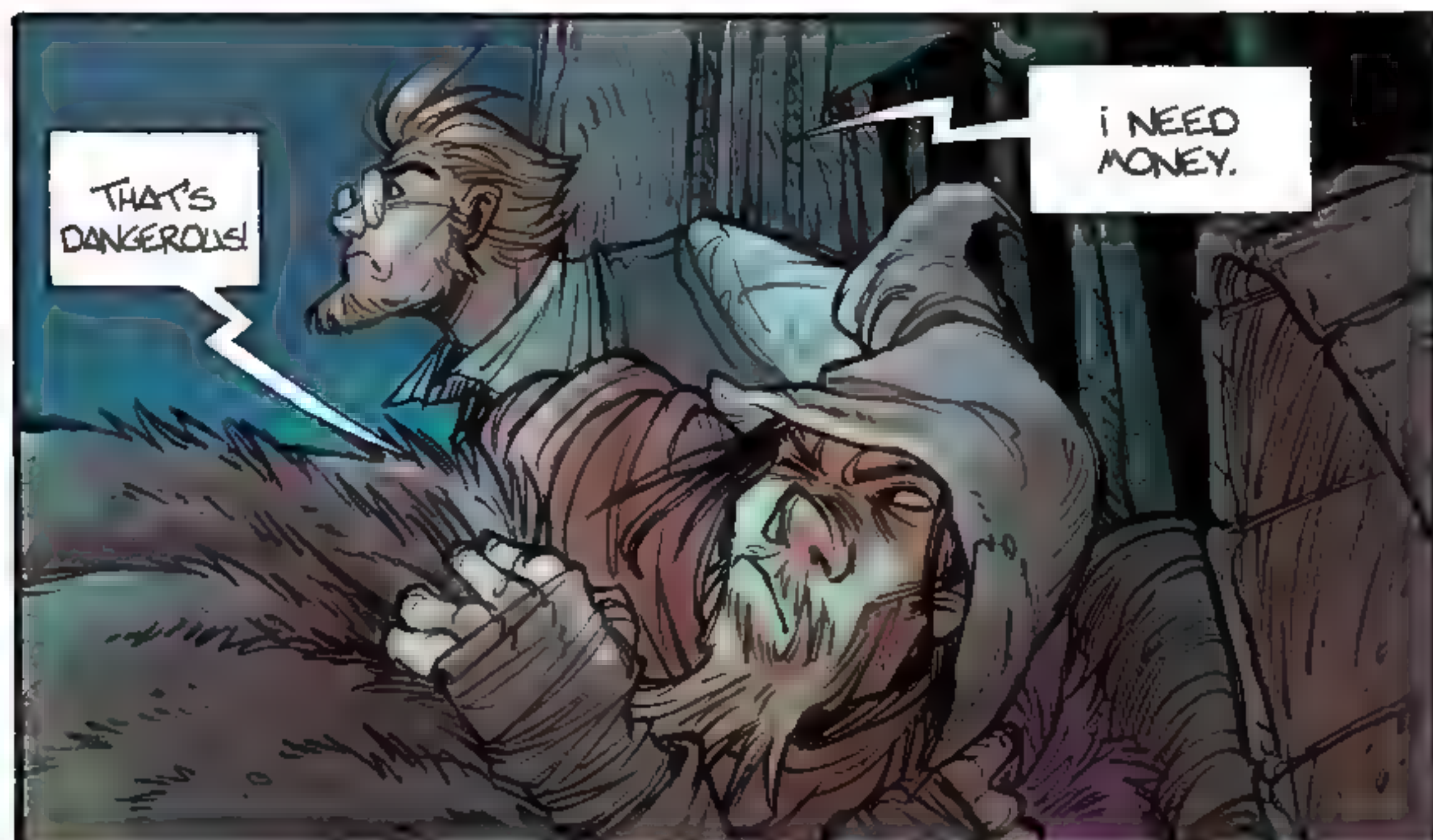
I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO YURI. AND, TO BE HONEST, AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T CARE AT ALL.



WAKE UP!



NIGHT HUNTING! ANY VOLUNTEER FOR A GOLDEN DOLLAR?



THAT'S DANGEROUS!

I NEED MONEY.



YOU'RE NEW! EVER BEEN HUNTING?

ERM... I KNOW HOW TO THROW BIRDS AT GREEN PIGS...

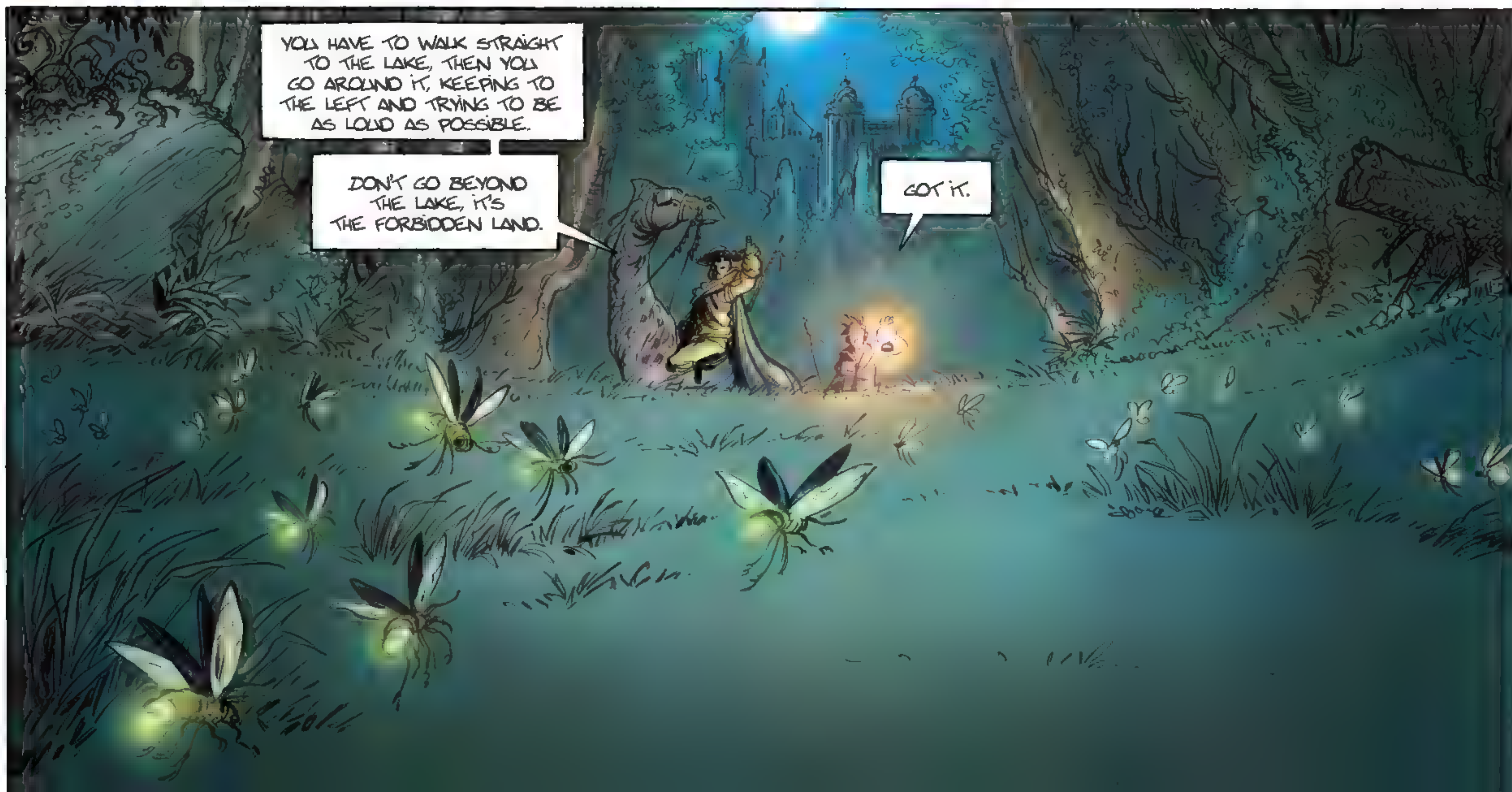


THAT'S GOOD, BUT FOR NOW YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BEAT THE BUSHES WITH A STICK AND A LAMP WHILE SHOUTING.



WAIT! WHAT DOES IT PAY?

A BEATER GETS TWO PERCENT OF WHAT WE GET. IF YOU'RE LUCKY, IT CAN BE UP TO A SILVER DOLLAR.



YOU HAVE TO WALK STRAIGHT TO THE LAKE, THEN YOU GO AROUND IT, KEEPING TO THE LEFT AND TRYING TO BE AS LOUD AS POSSIBLE.

DON'T GO BEYOND THE LAKE, IT'S THE FORBIDDEN LAND.

GOT IT.



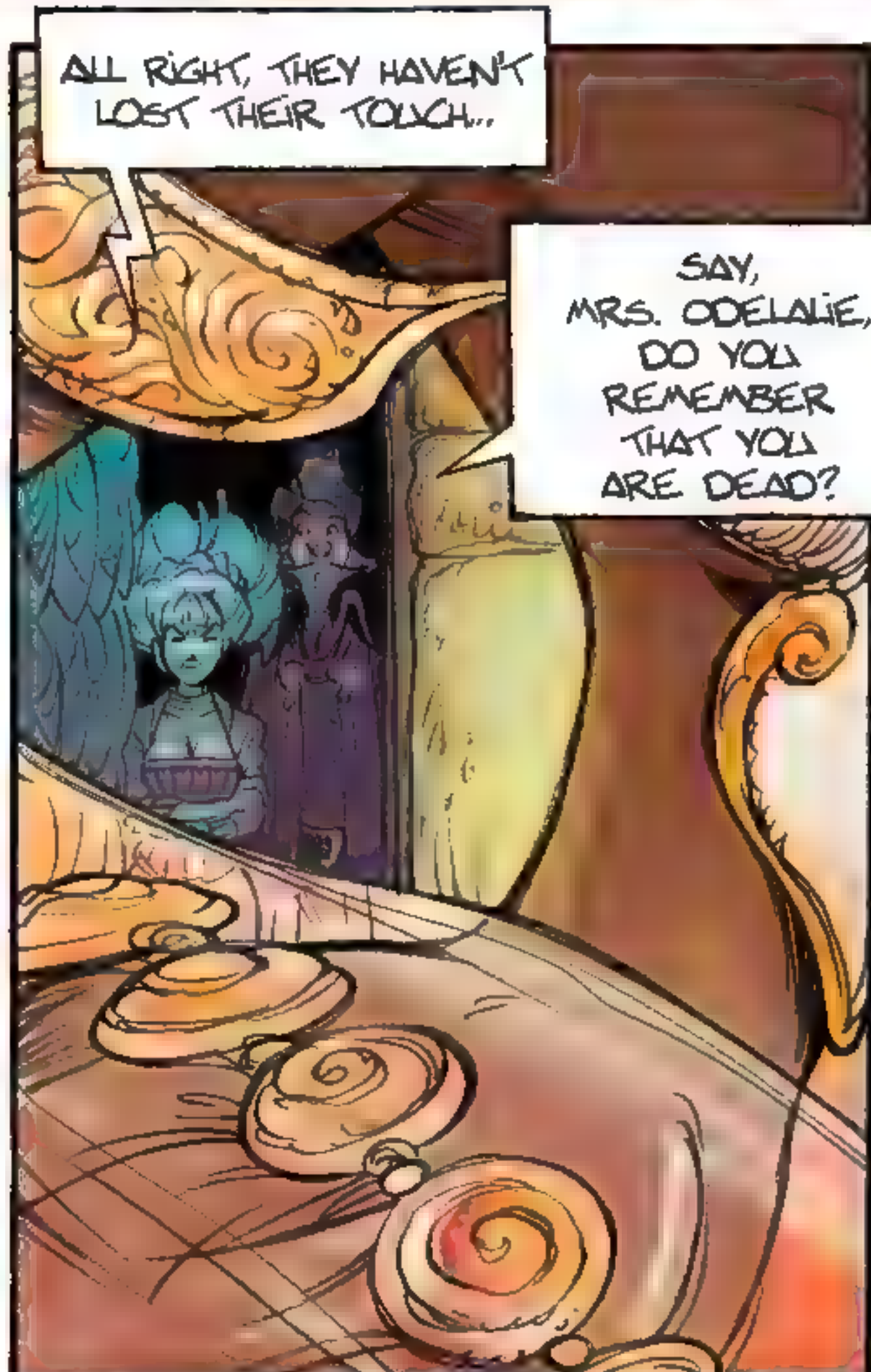
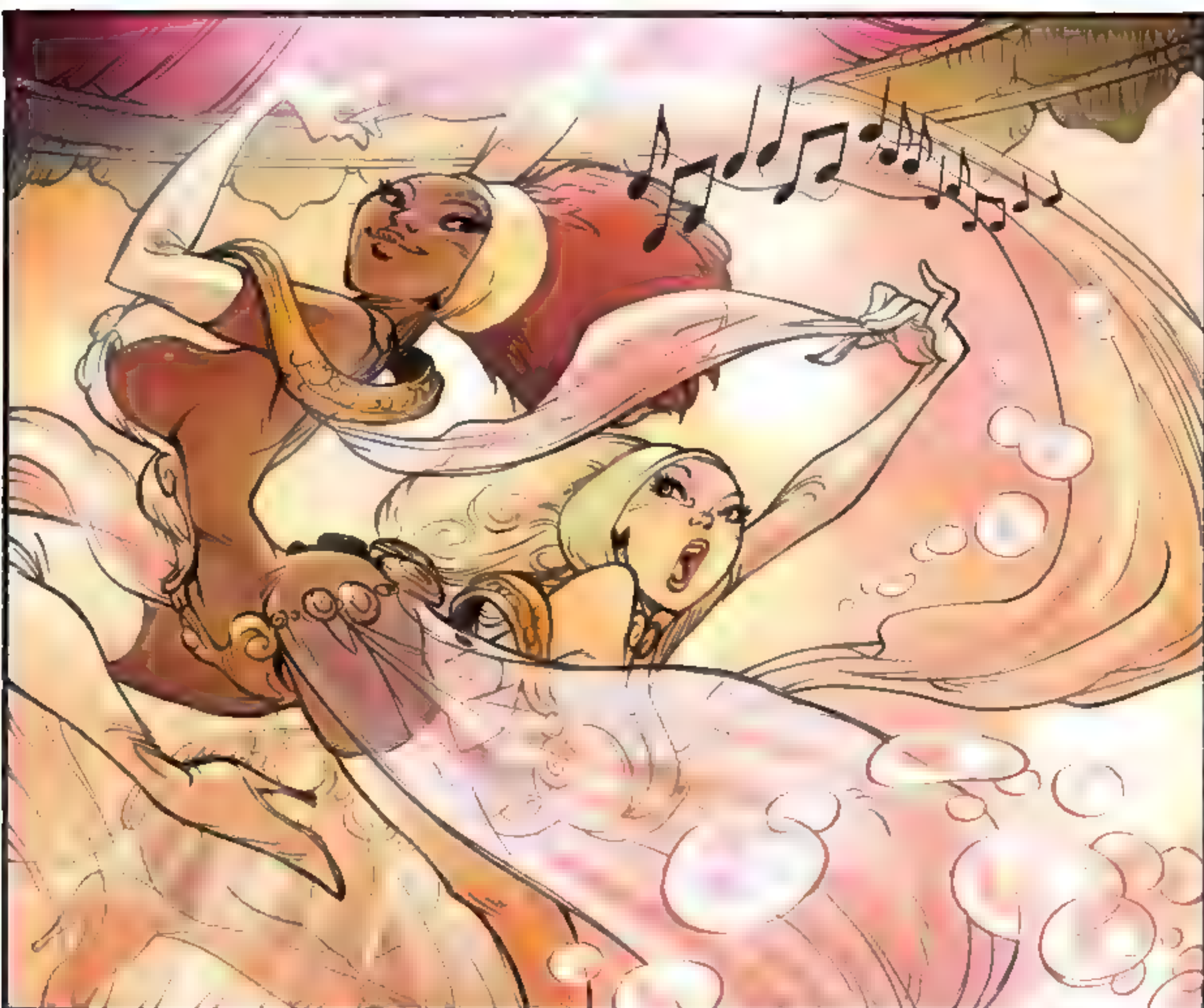
AND NOW THE BIG MOMENT
OF THE TWINS...

YUMMY ET YUMMMMAAAA!



CHARMING!

FFF! JUST
BECAUSE
THERE'S TWO
OF THEM, AND
I AM ONE!



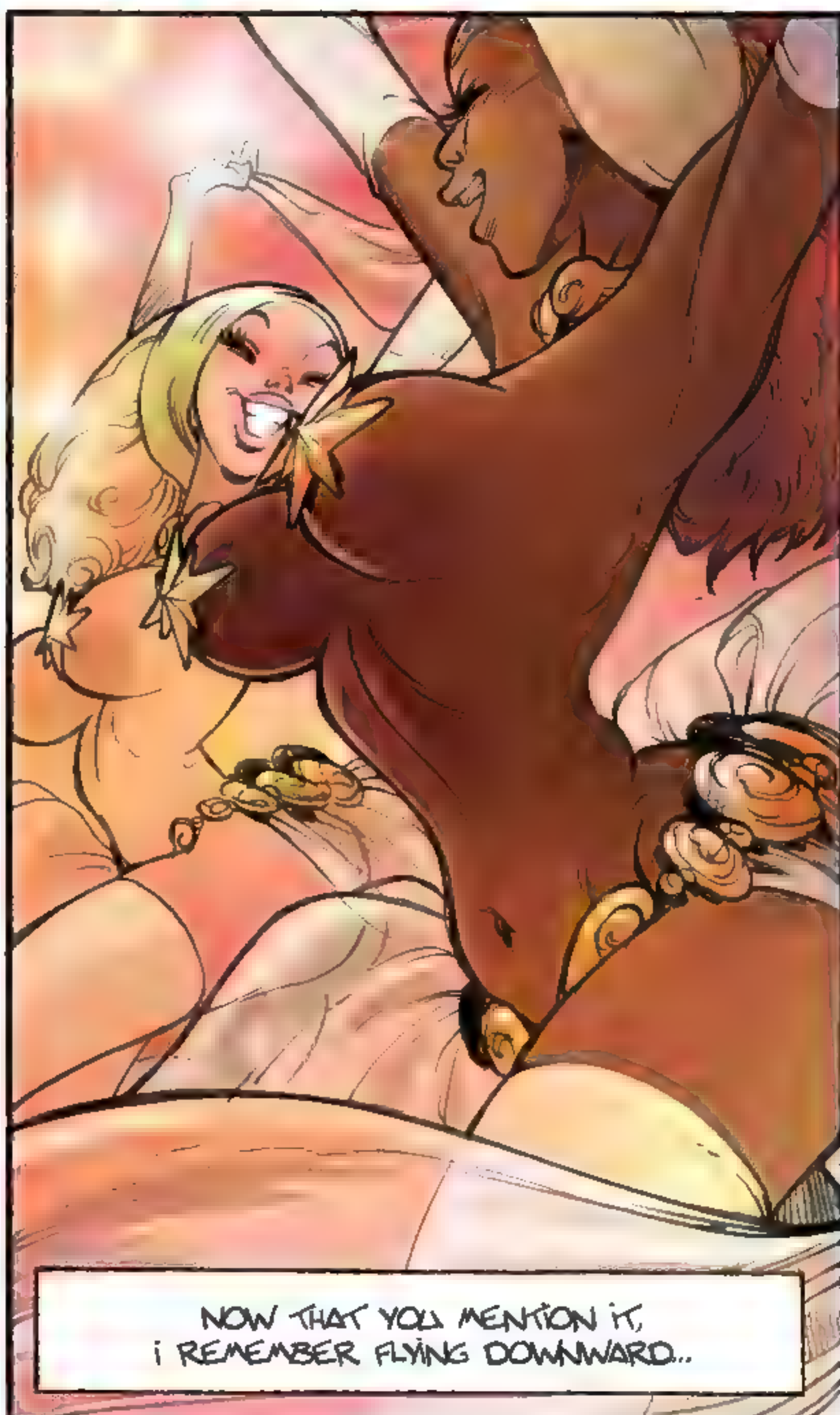
ALL RIGHT, THEY HAVEN'T
LOST THEIR TOUCH...

SAY,
MRS. ODELAIE,
DO YOU
REMEMBER
THAT YOU
ARE DEAD?

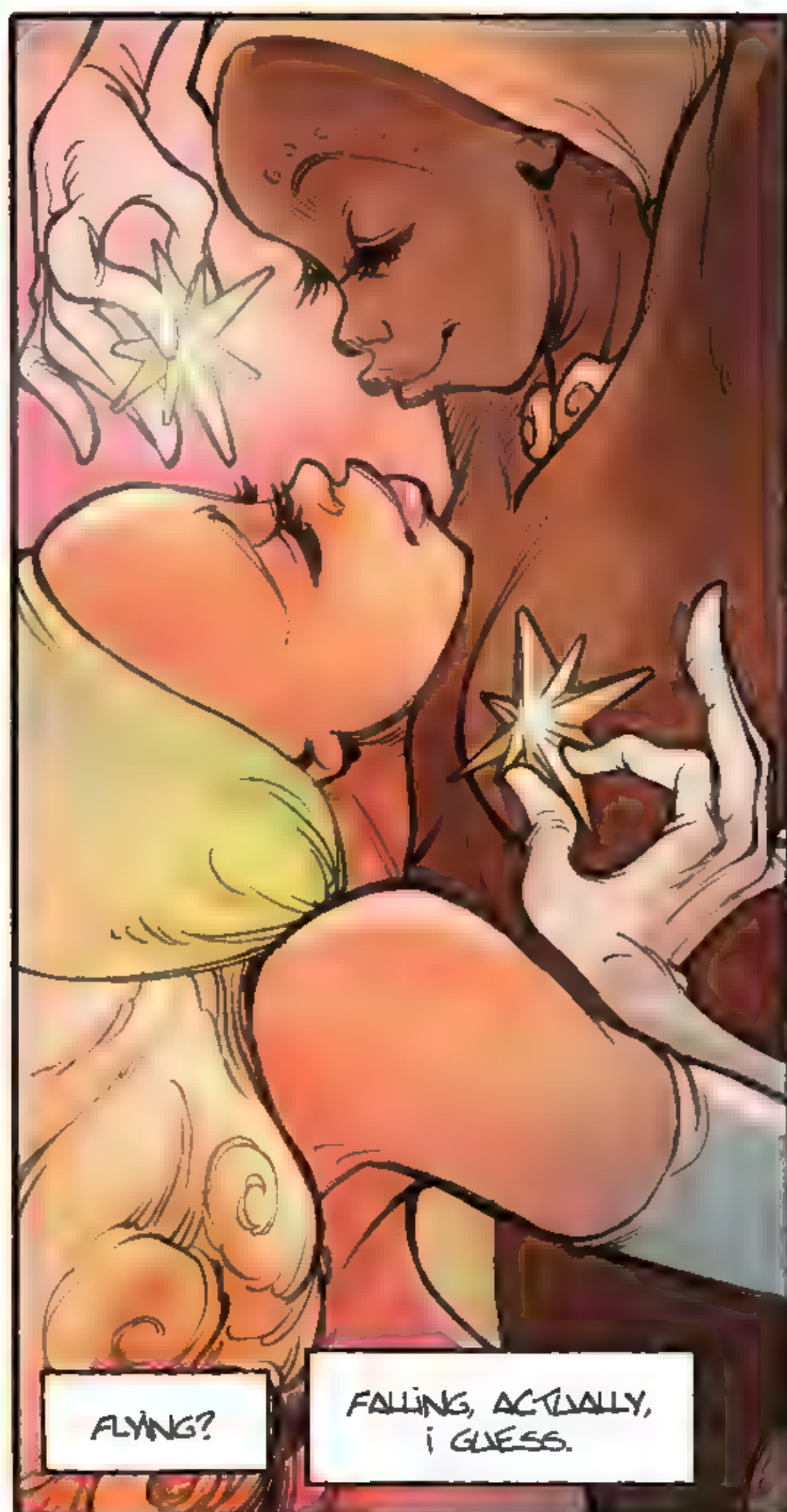


DON'T TALK
NONSENSE!

YOU FELL OFF YOUR BUILDING. EVERYBODY
BELIEVED IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, YOU'VE
ALWAYS BEEN SLOPPY WITH THE PIGEON HOUSE...

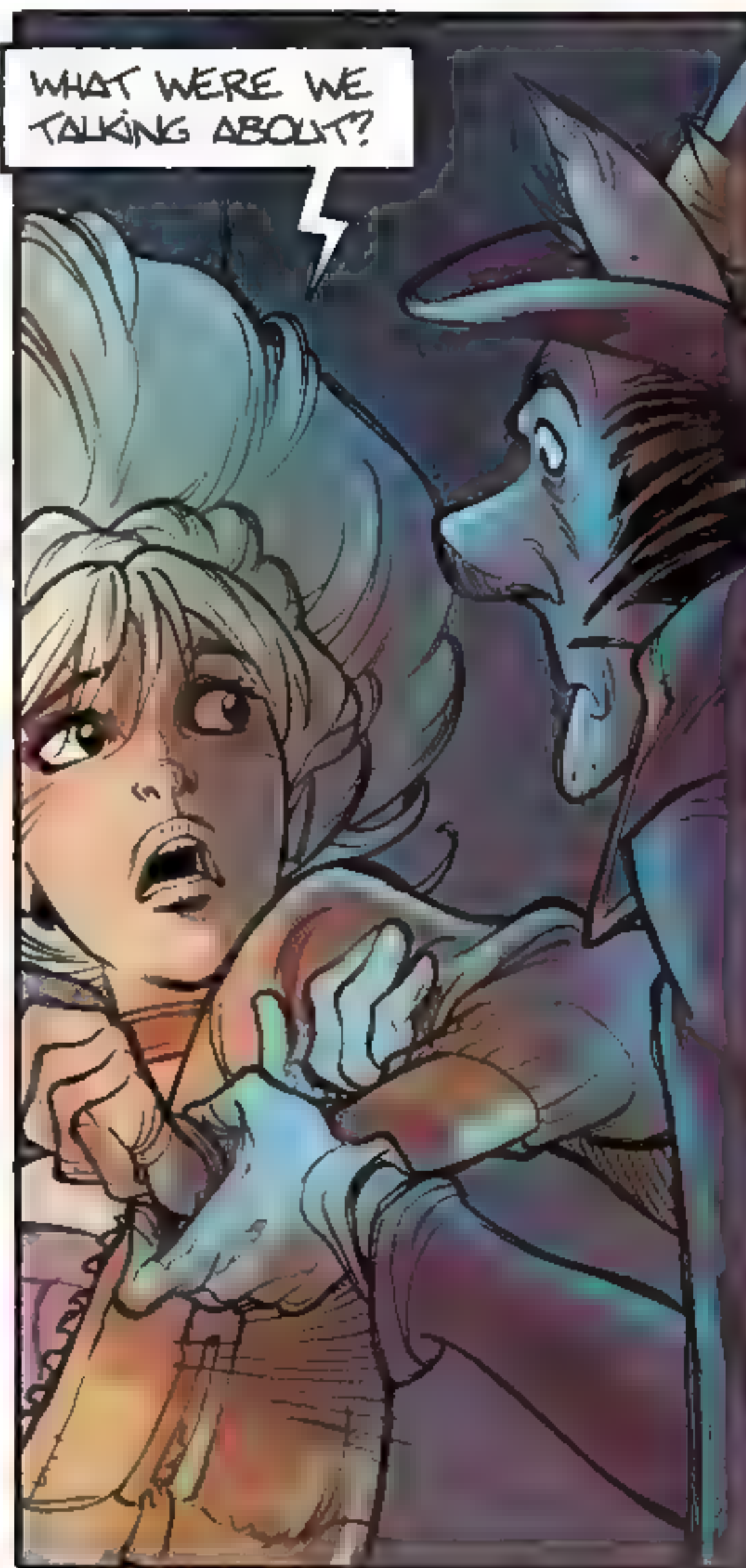
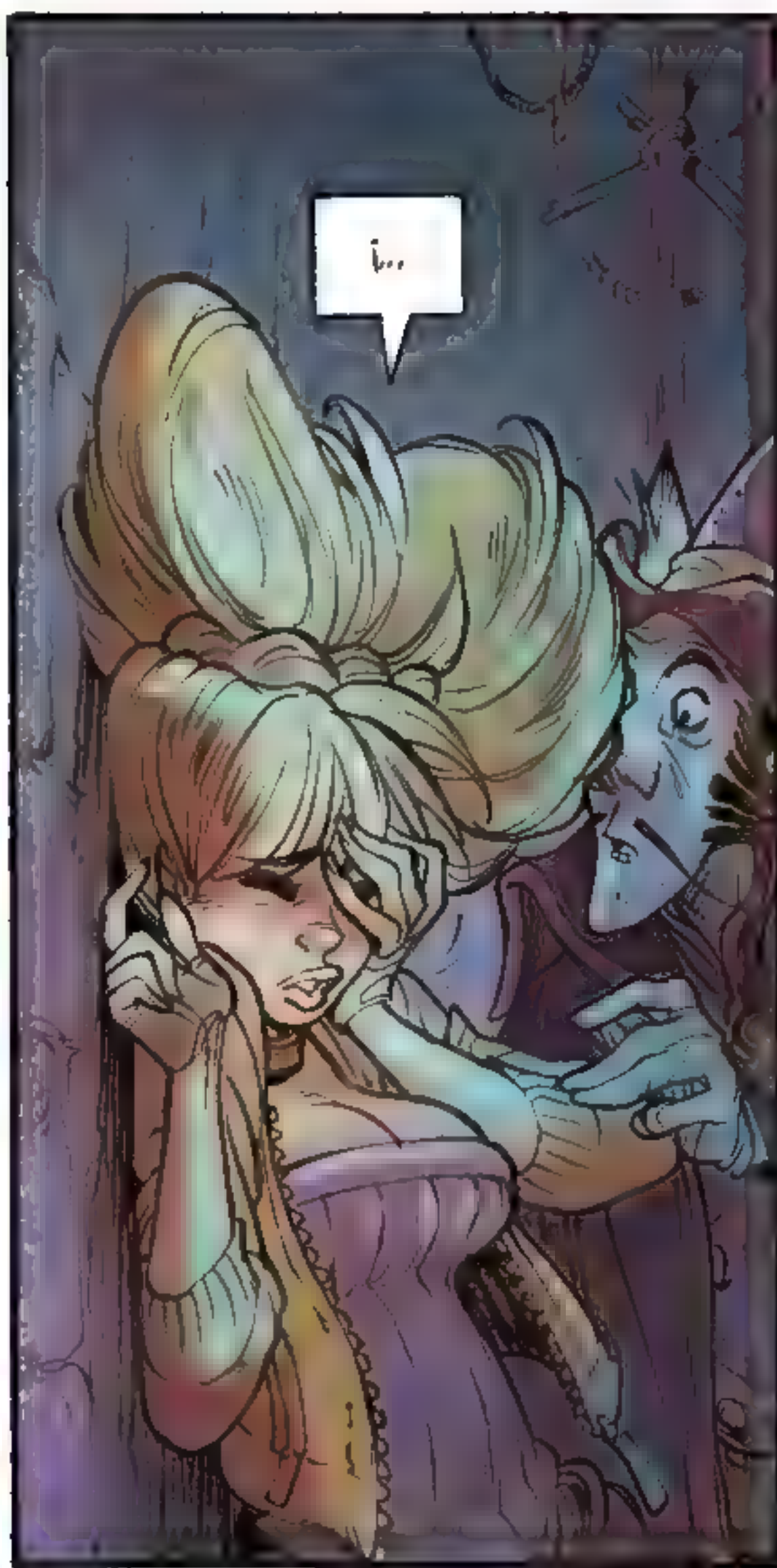
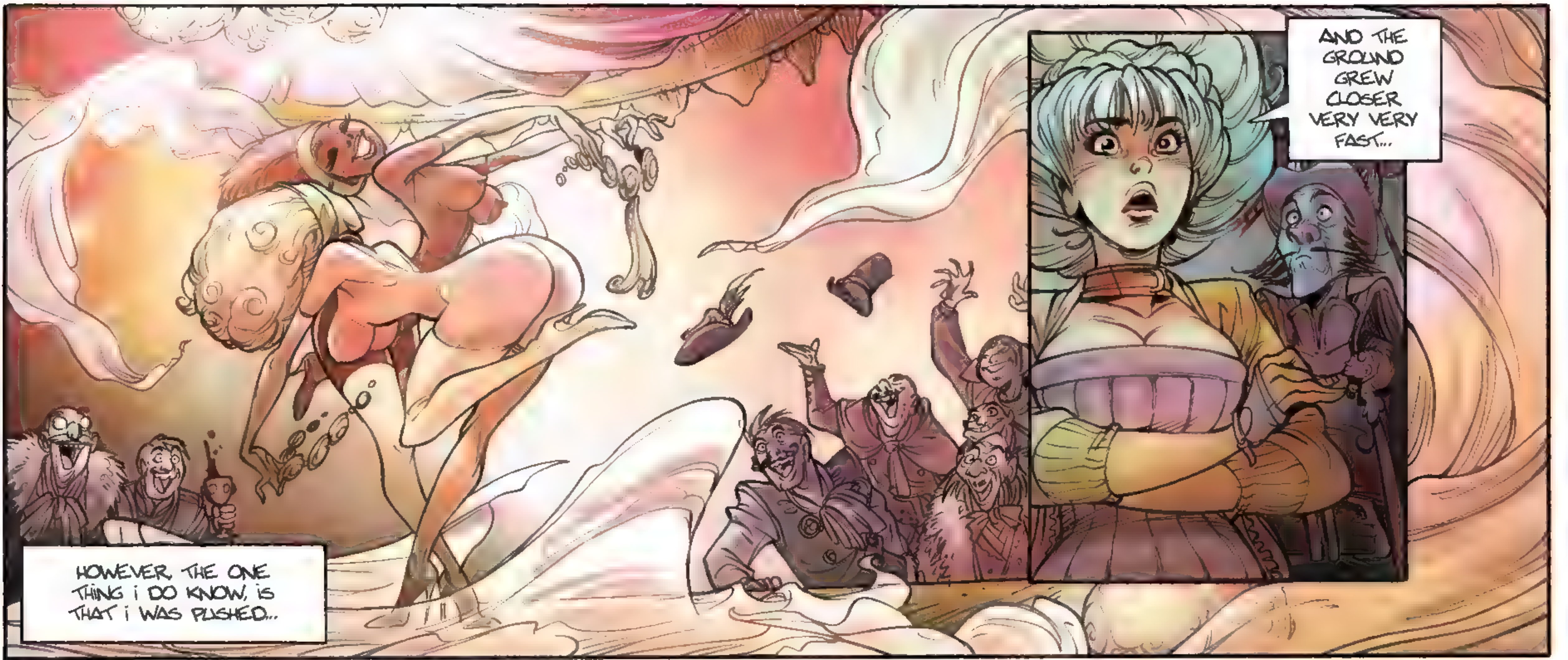


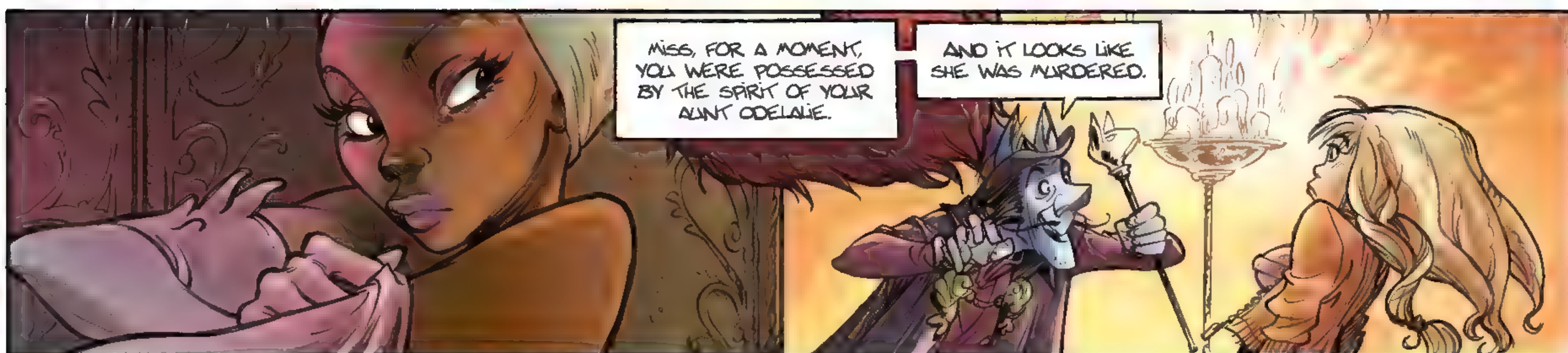
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,
I REMEMBER FLYING DOWNWARD...

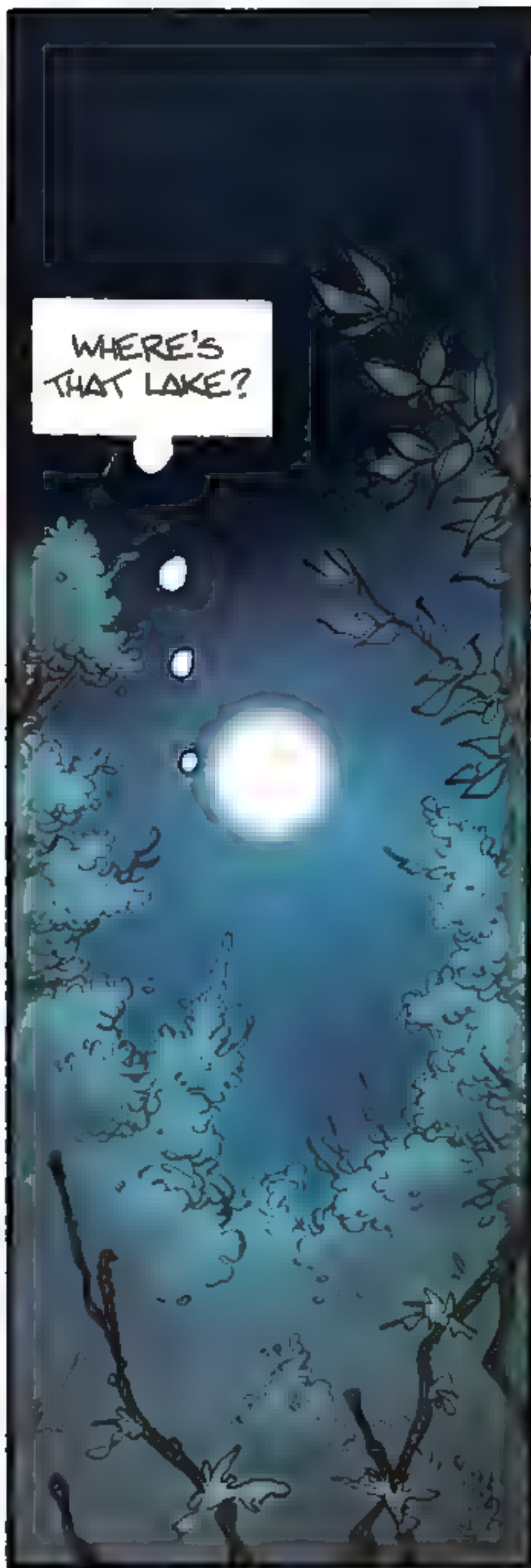


FLYING?

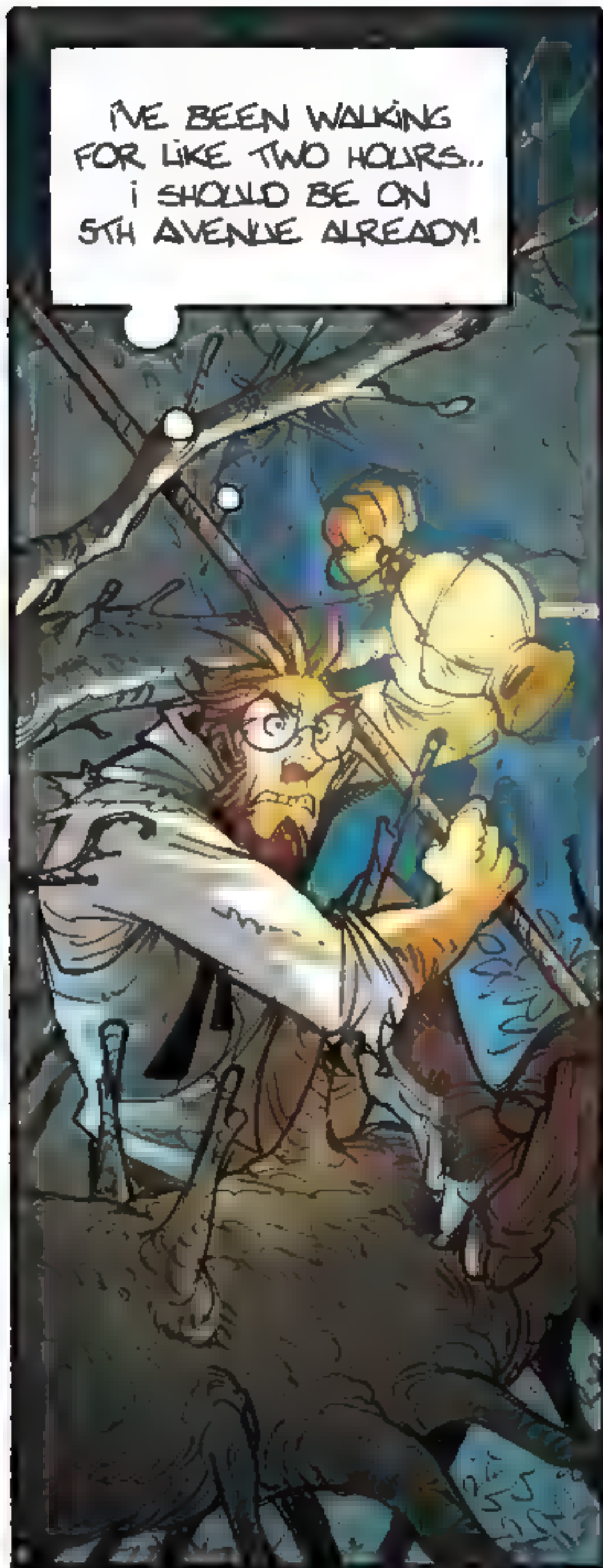
FALLING, ACTUALLY,
I GUESS.







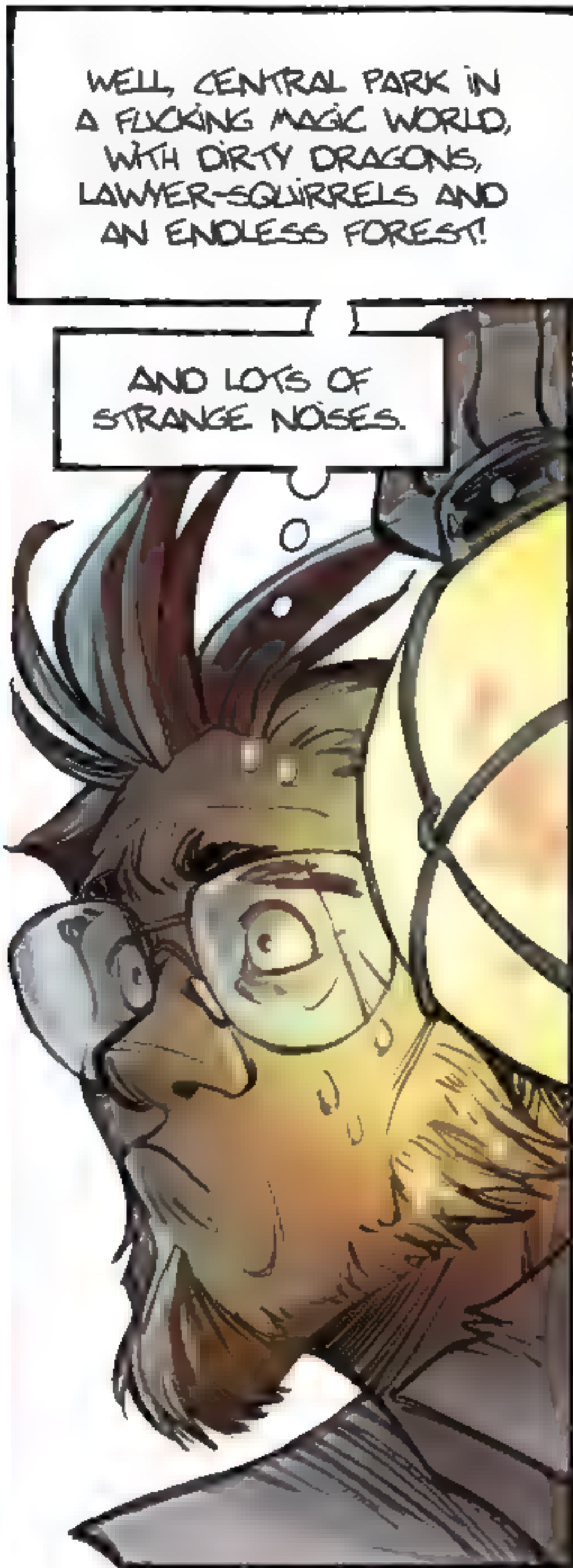
WHERE'S THAT LAKE?



I'VE BEEN WALKING FOR LIKE TWO HOURS... I SHOULD BE ON 5TH AVENUE ALREADY!

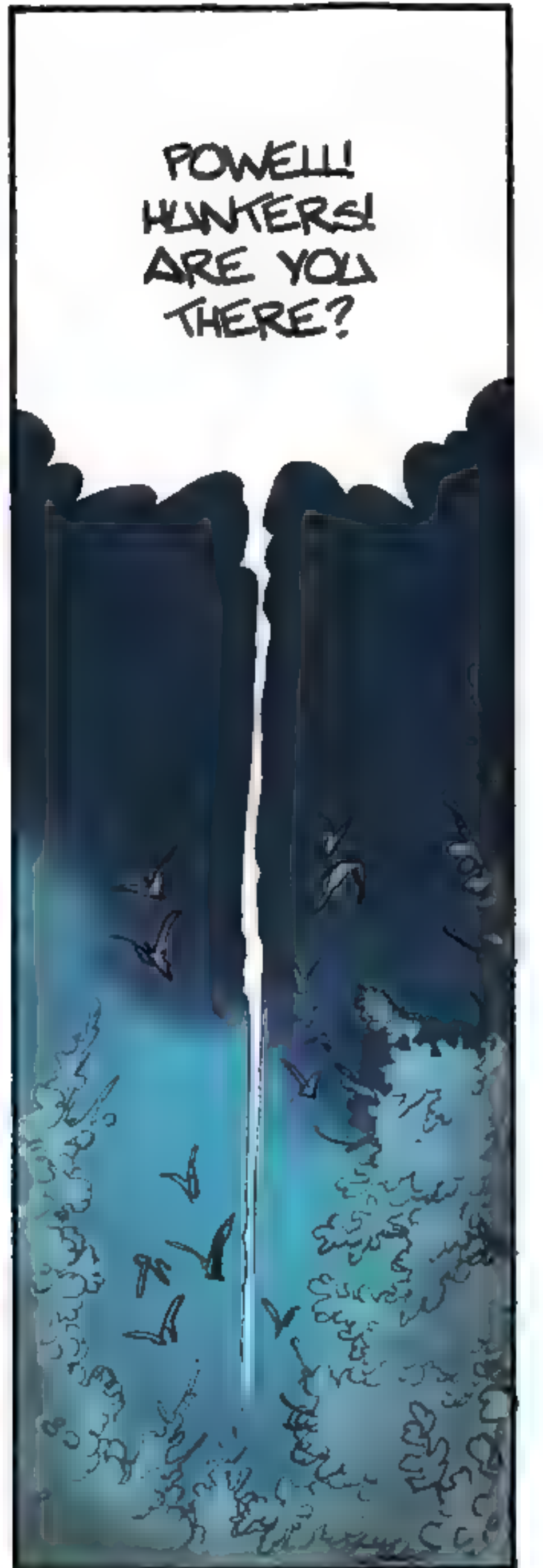


STAY CALM, IT'S ONLY CENTRAL PARK



WELL, CENTRAL PARK IN A FUCKING MAGIC WORLD, WITH DIRTY DRAGONS, LAWYER-SQUIRRELS AND AN ENDLESS FOREST!

AND LOTS OF STRANGE NOSES.



POWELL! HUNTERS! ARE YOU THERE?



POWELL WON'T PAY ME, I HAVE TO HUNT ALONE, AND MOST OF ALL, I'VE GOT TO FIND THE WAY OUT!

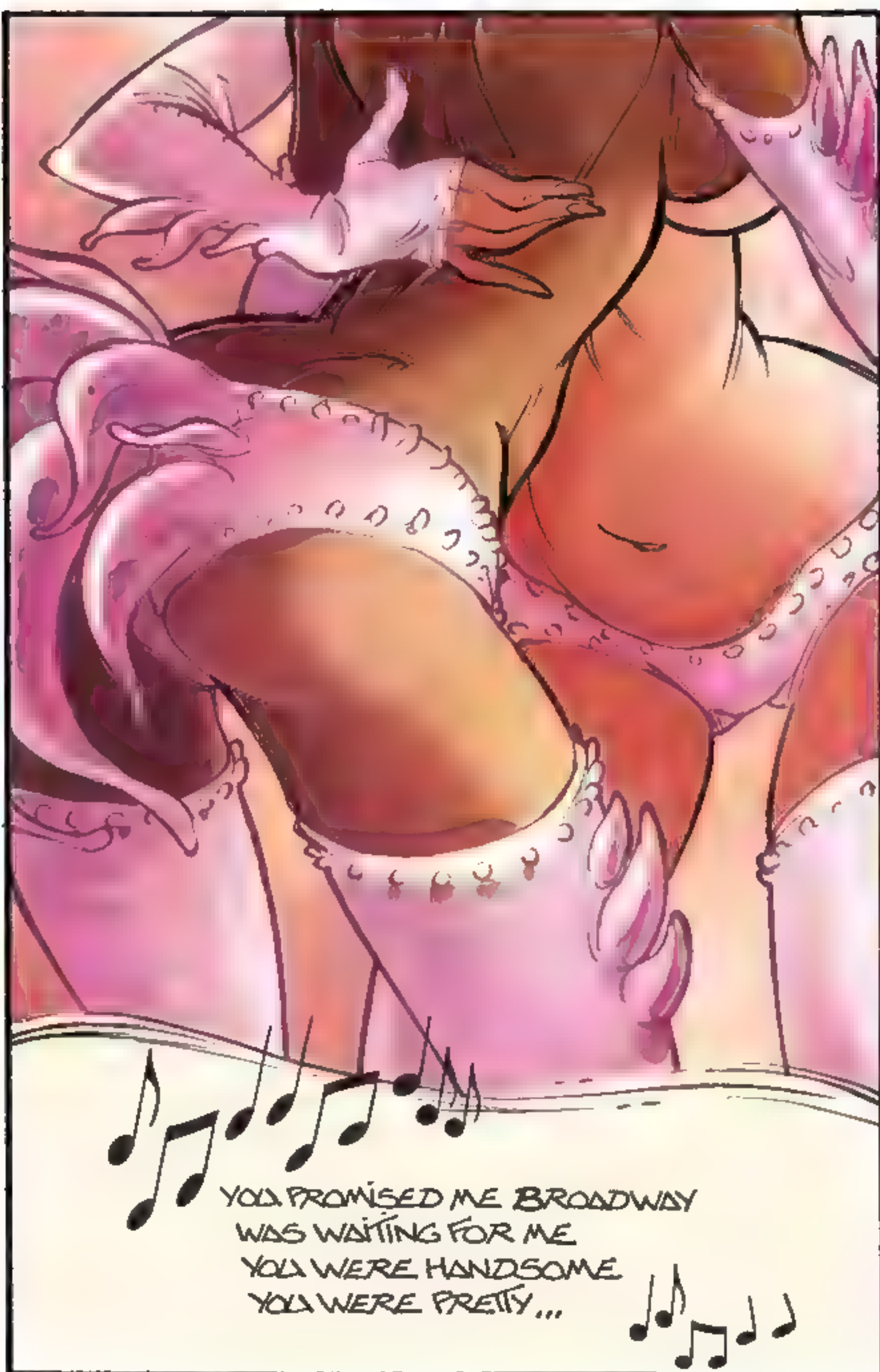


ONLY QUESTION IS, DID I ENTER THE FORBIDDEN TERRITORY?

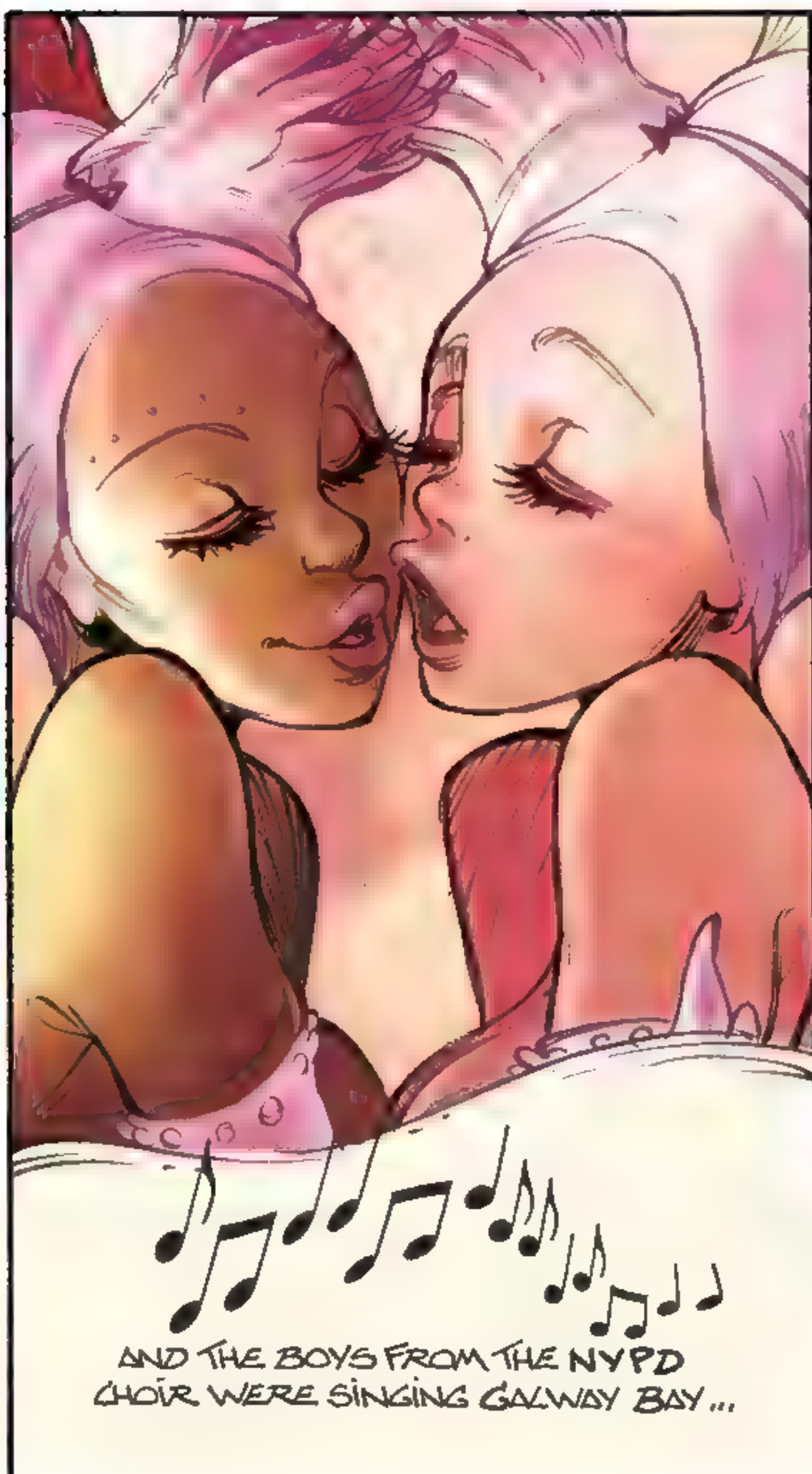


WITH THIS, I CAN FIGHT A BOAR! WELL, AT LEAST A RABBIT...

THERE'S NO WAY I'M WINNING THE DARWIN AWARD BY DYING LOST IN CENTRAL PARK!



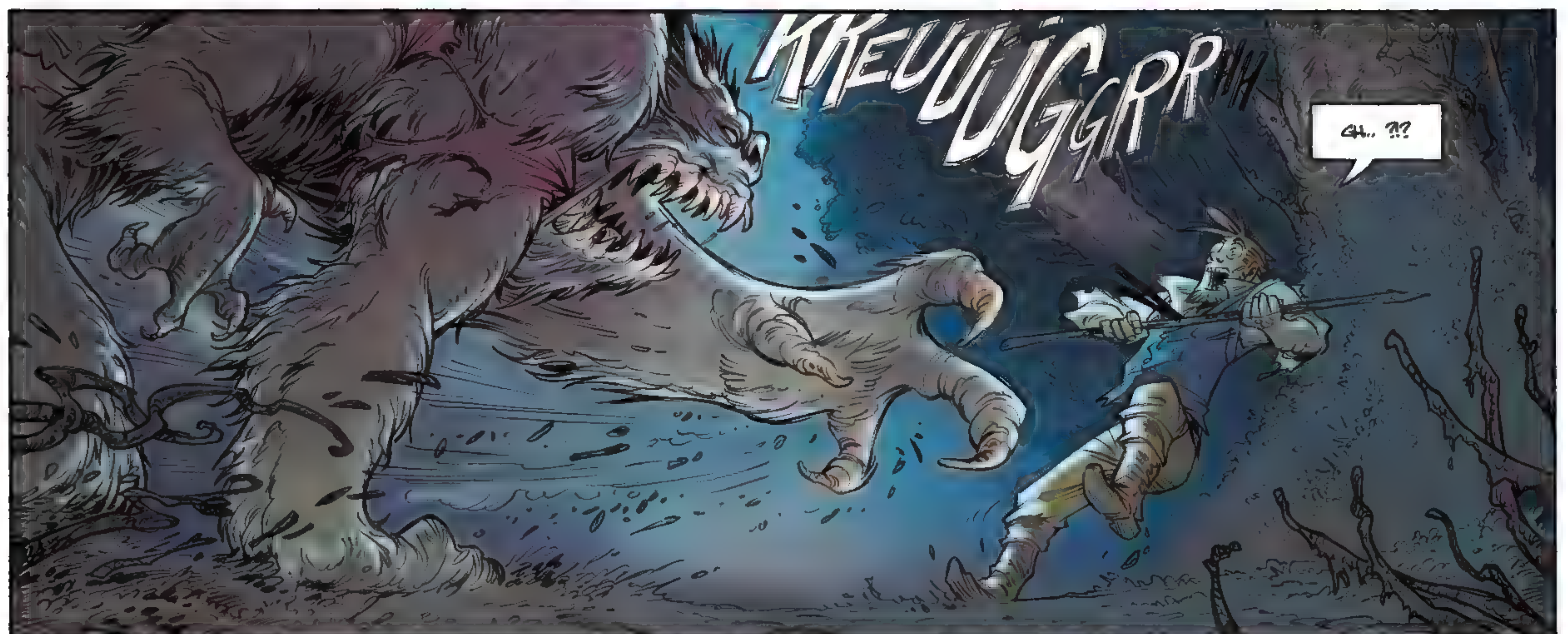
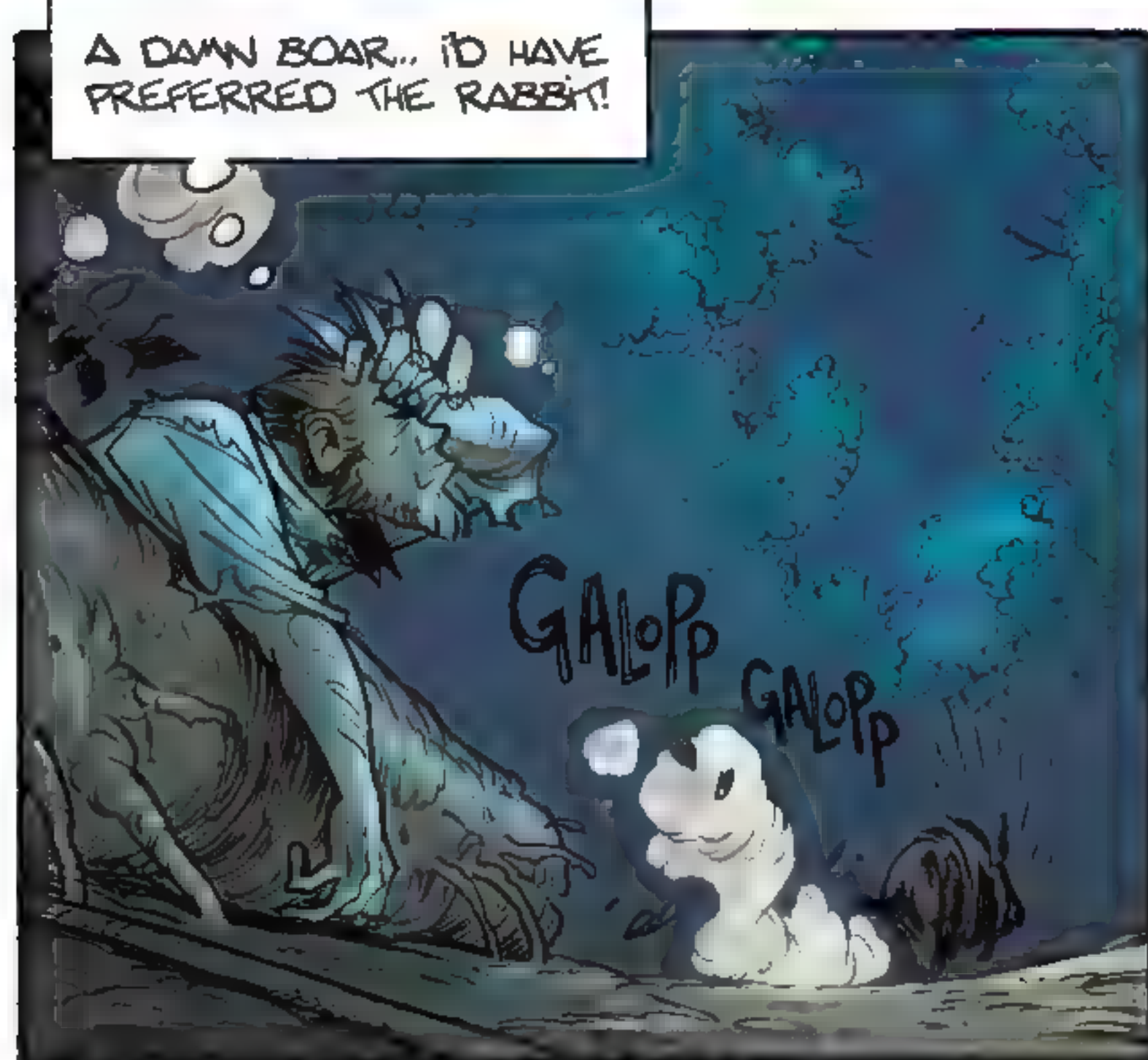
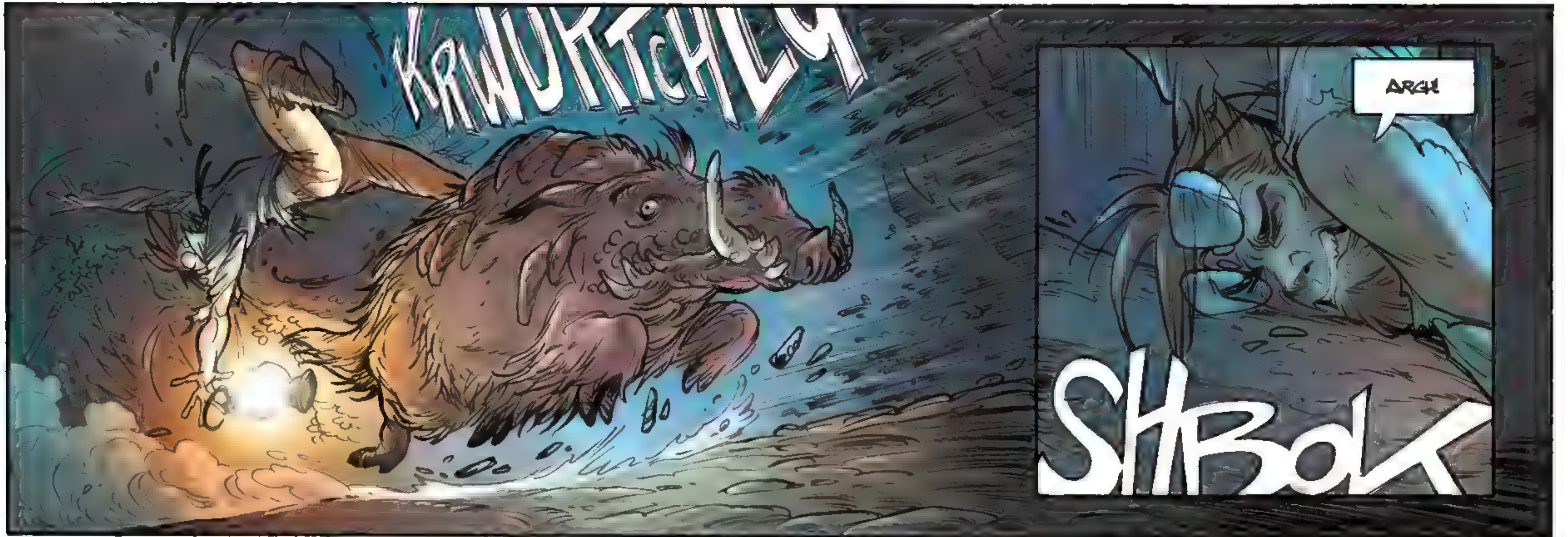
Musical notes: YOU PROMISED ME BROADWAY WAS WAITING FOR ME YOU WERE HANDSOME YOU WERE PRETTY...

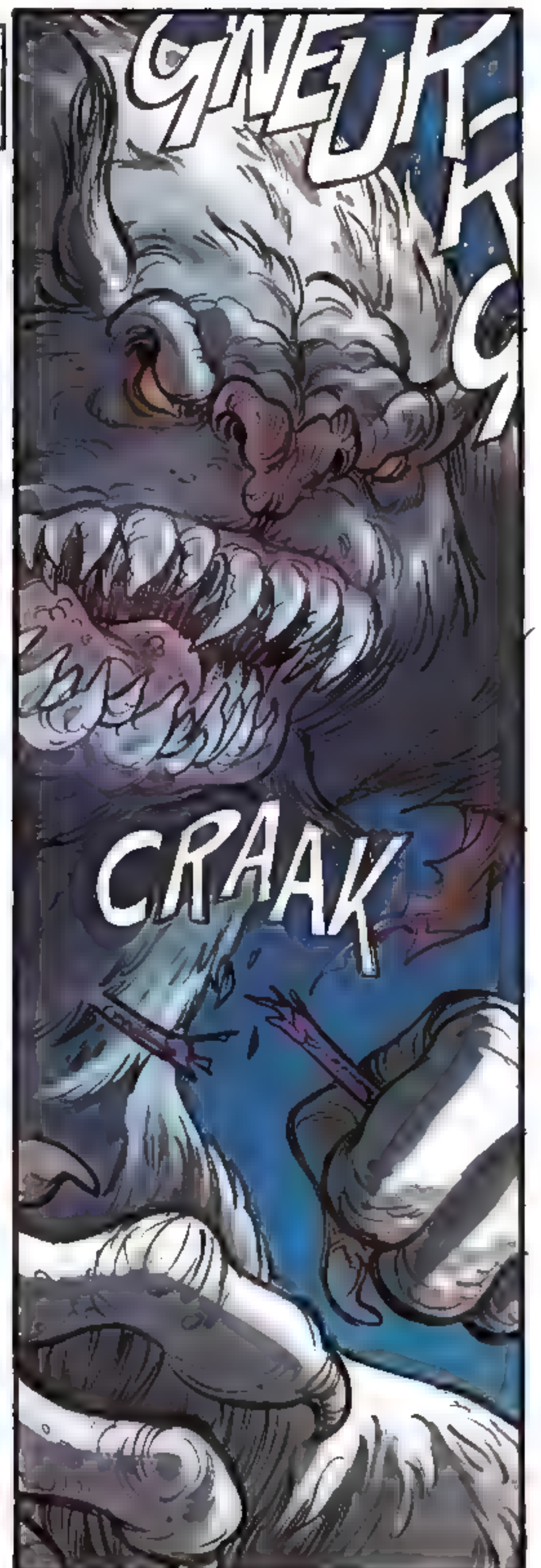
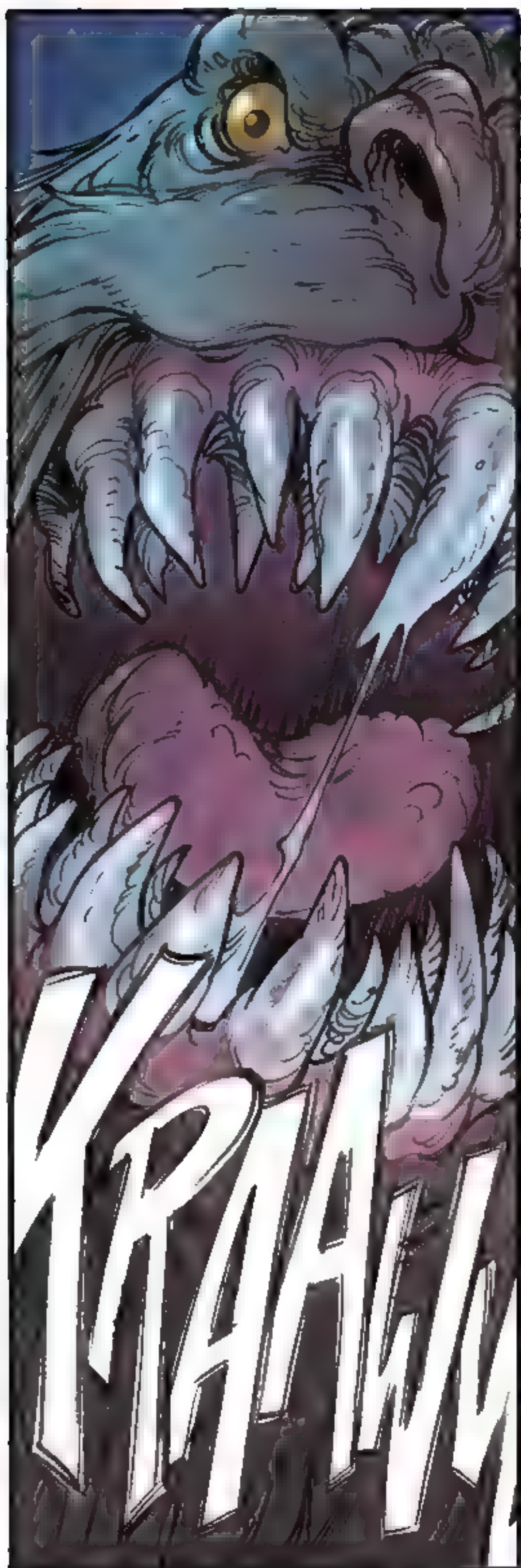
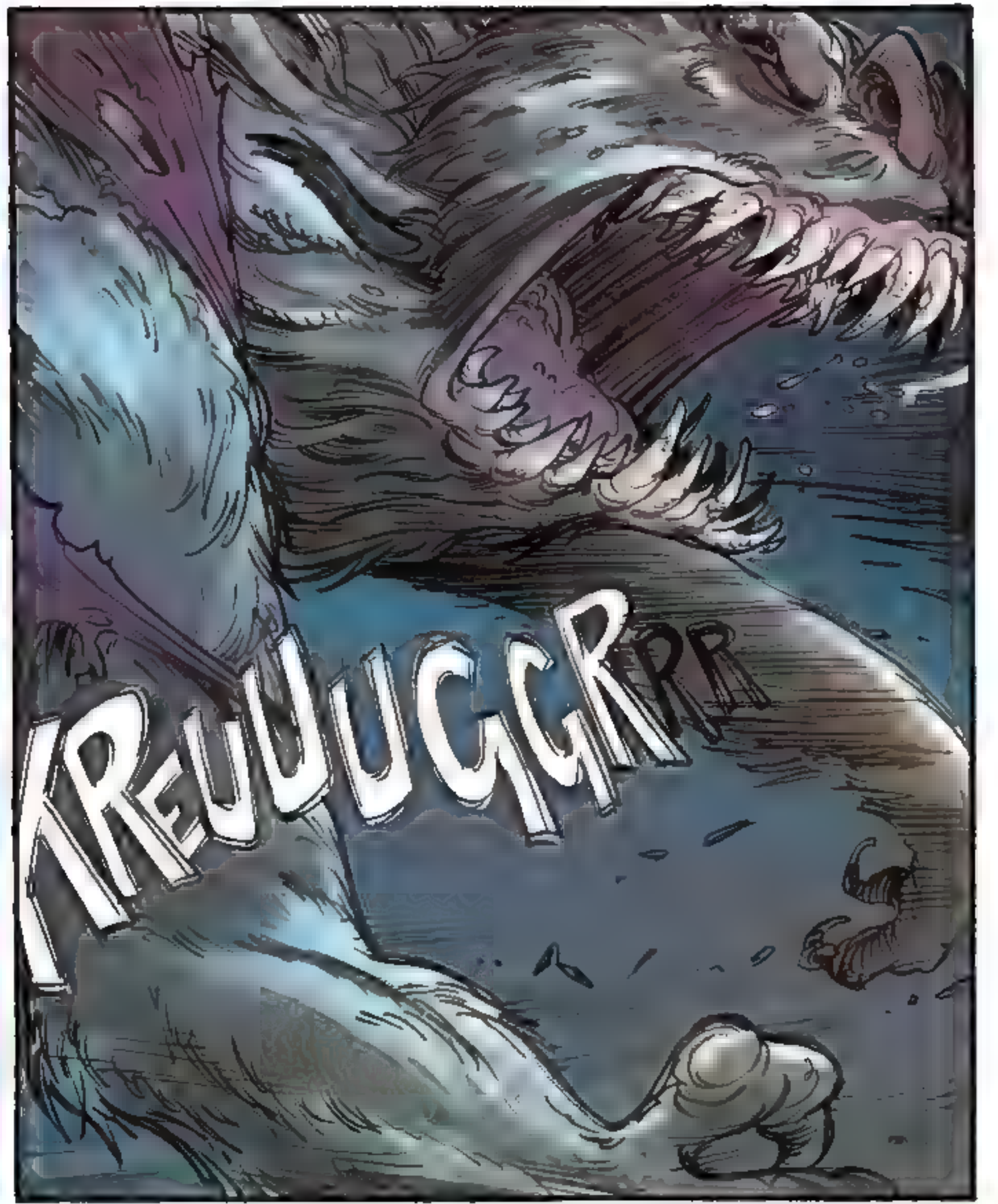
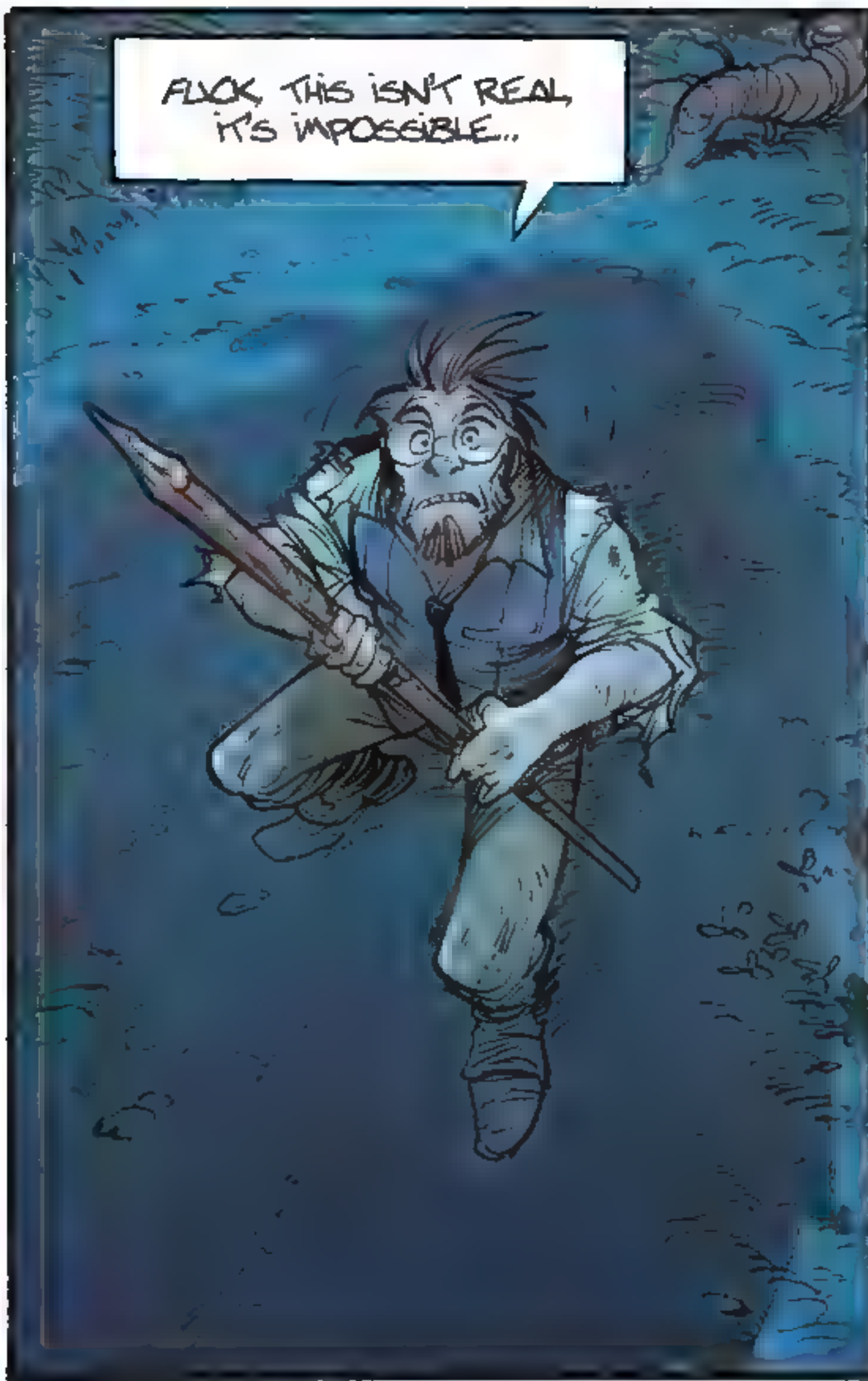


Musical notes: AND THE BOYS FROM THE NYPD CHOR WERE SINGING GALWAY BAY...

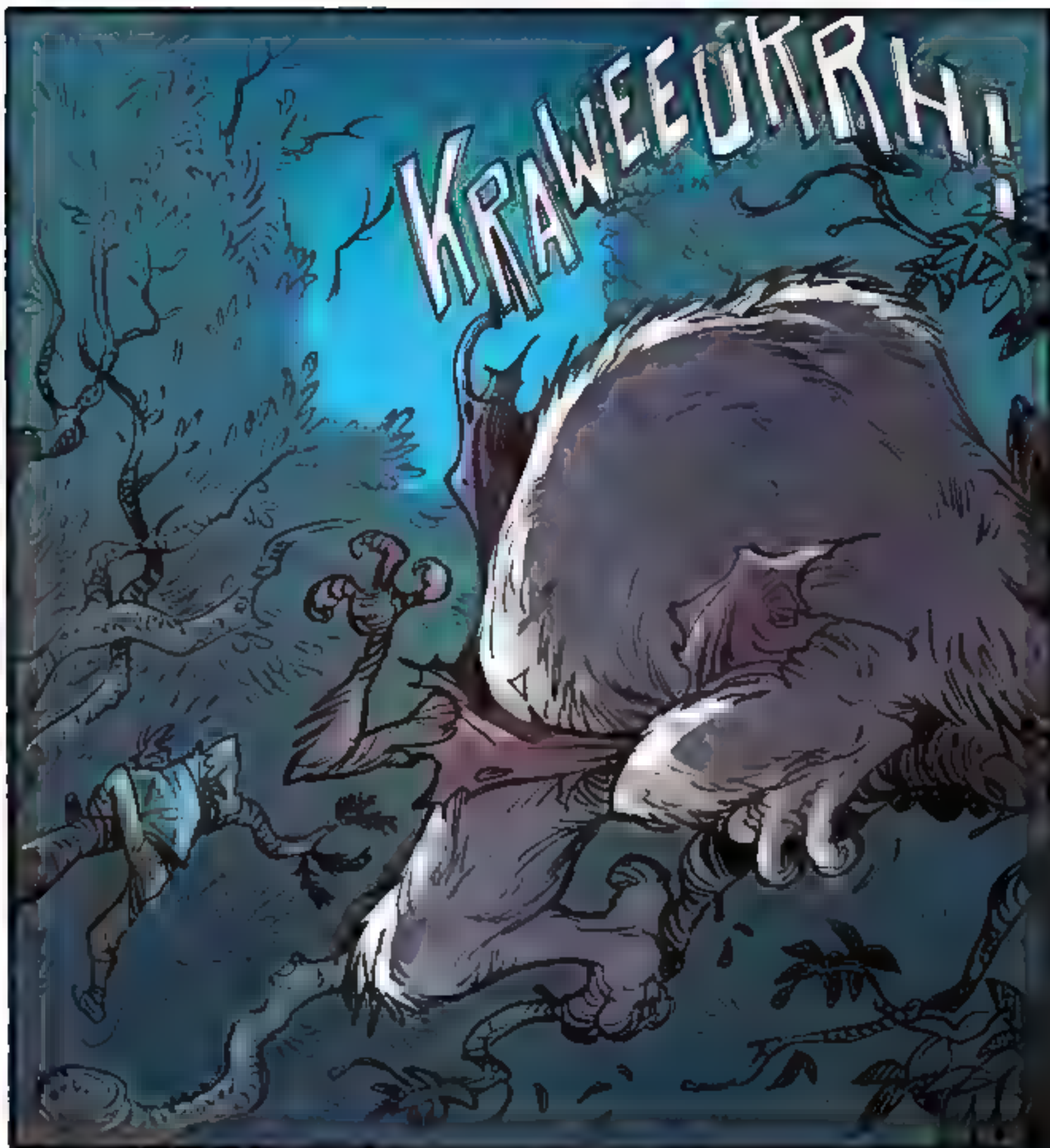


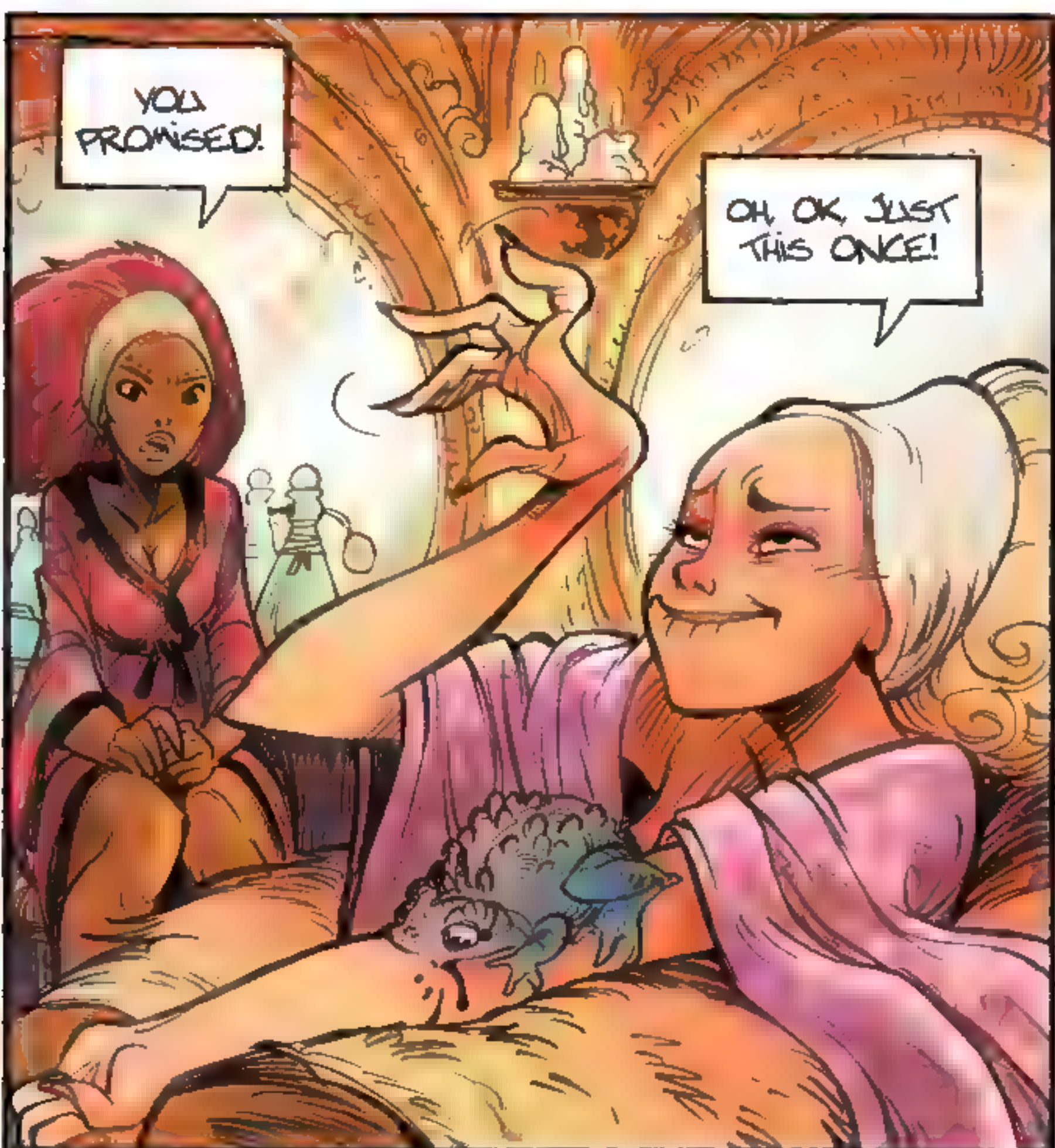
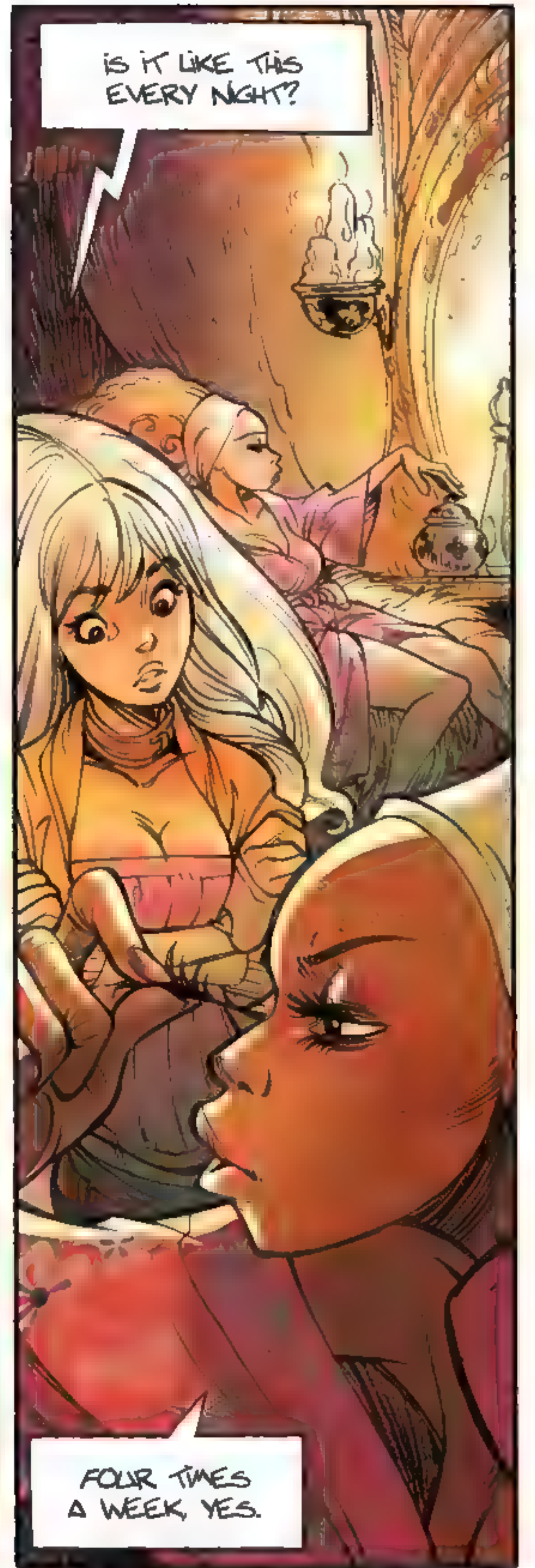
Musical notes: AND THE BELLS WERE RINGING OUT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

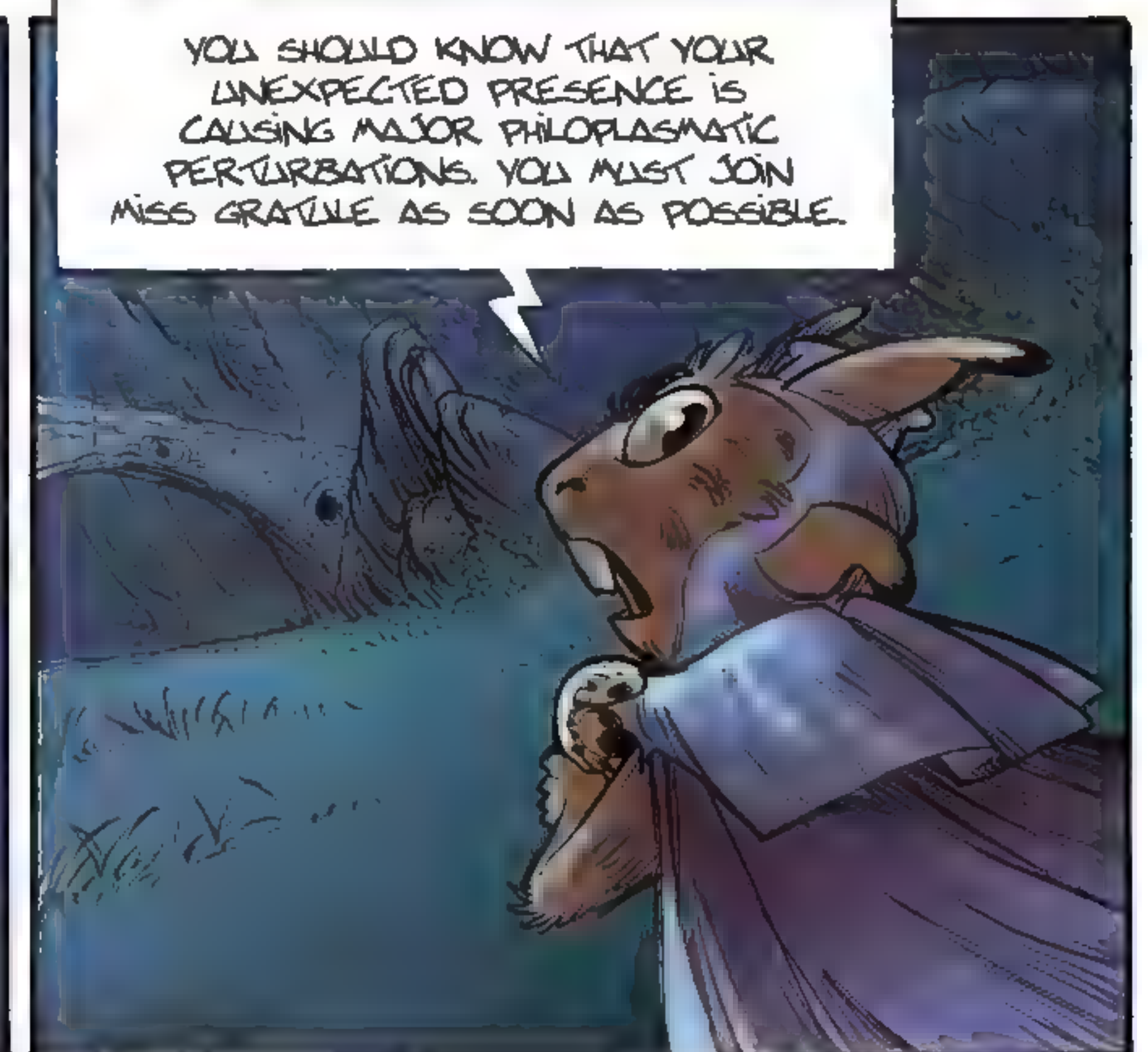


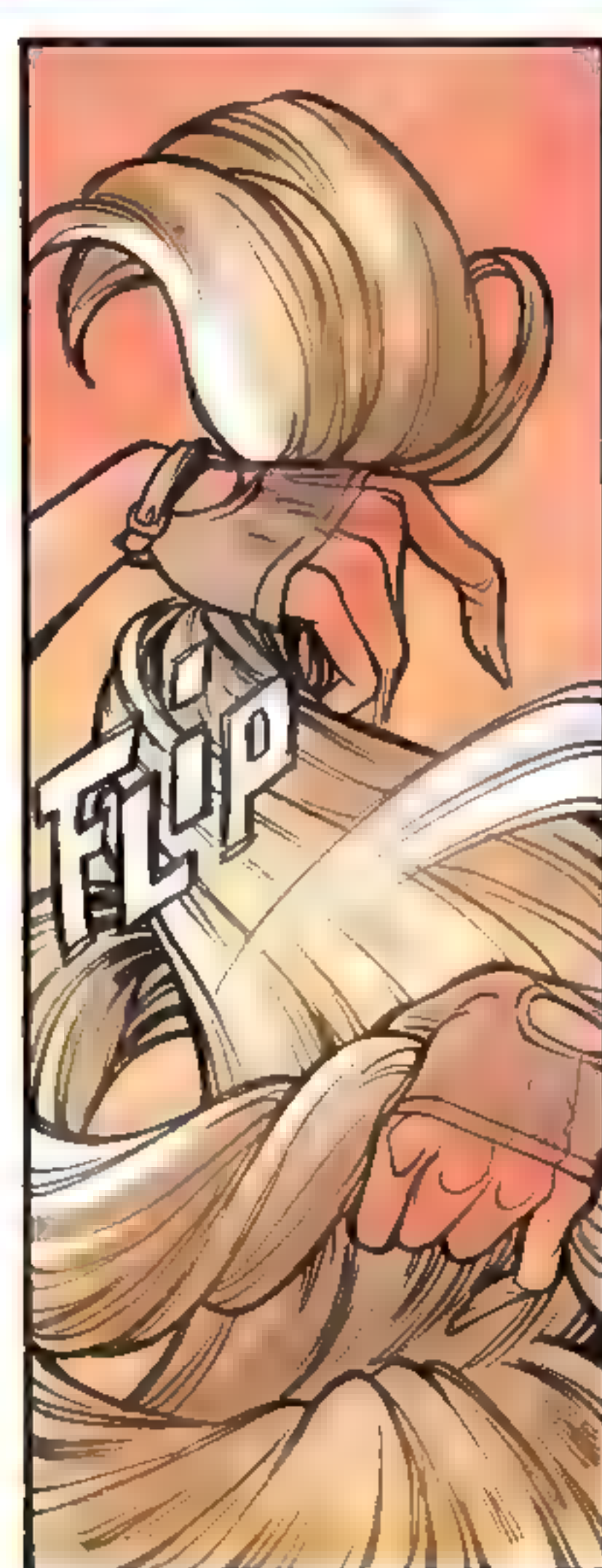
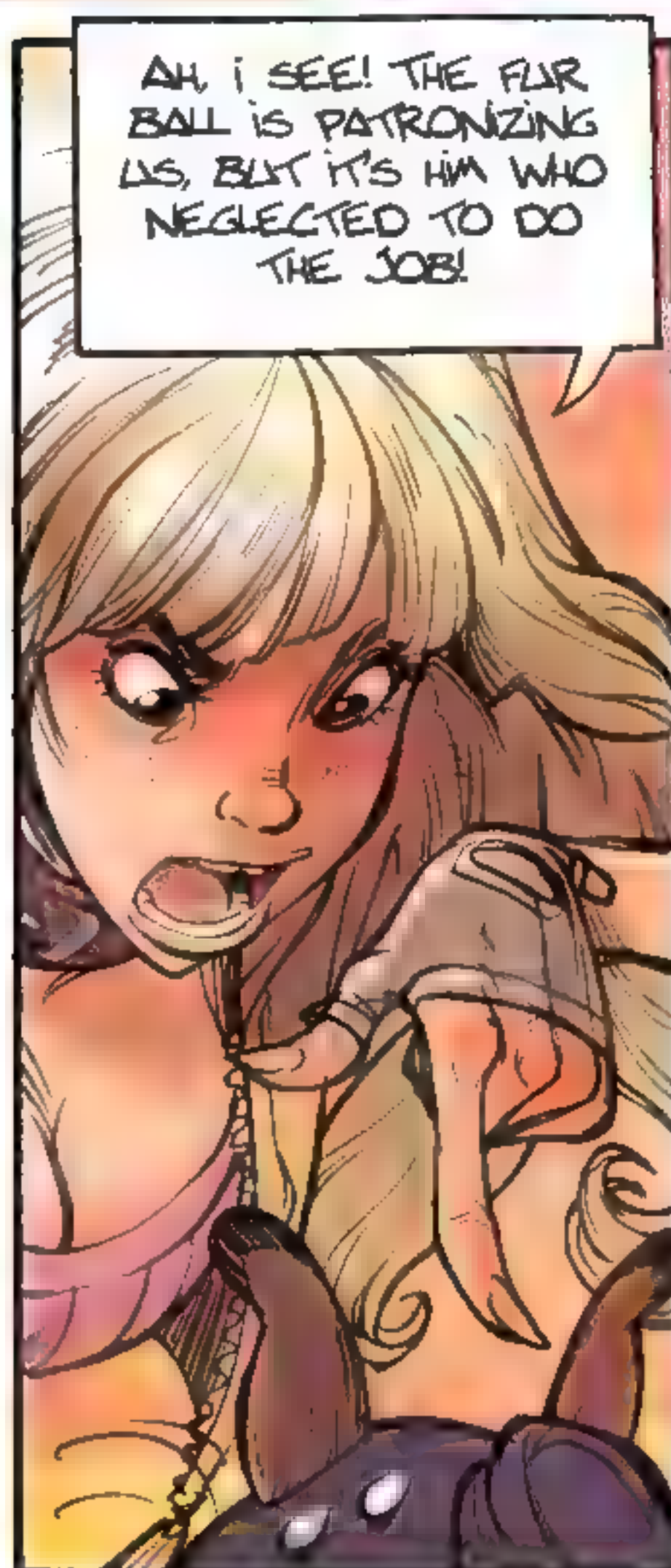
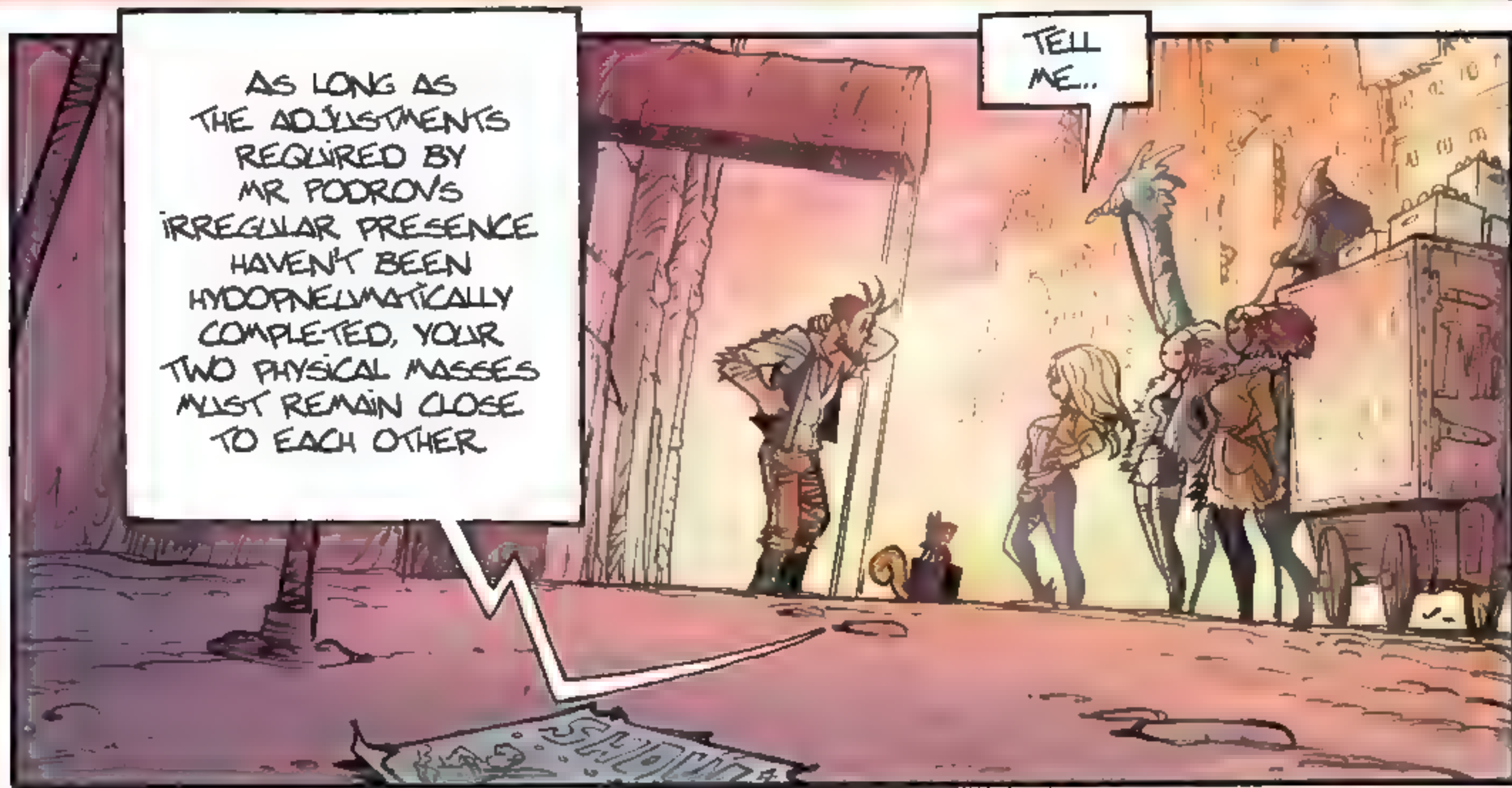
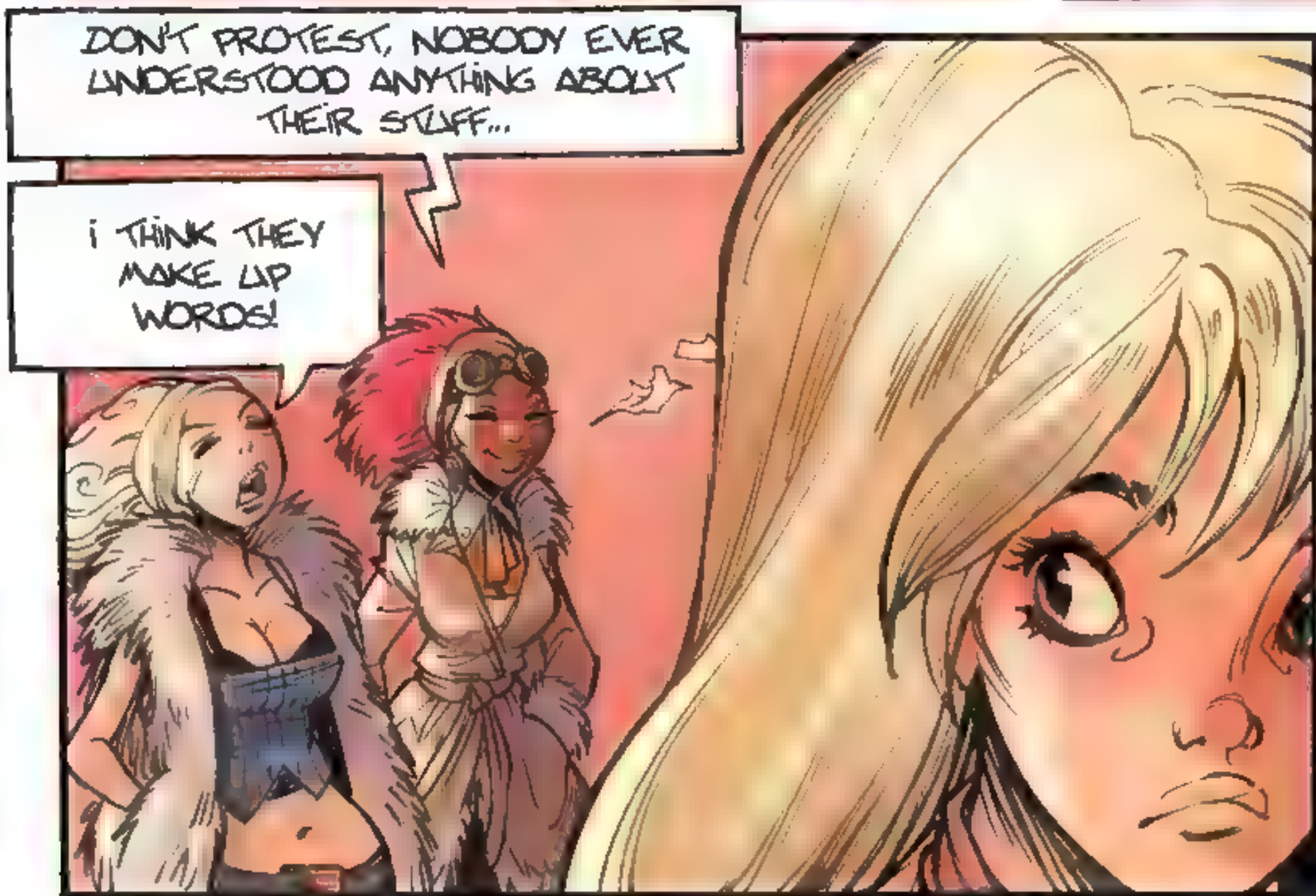
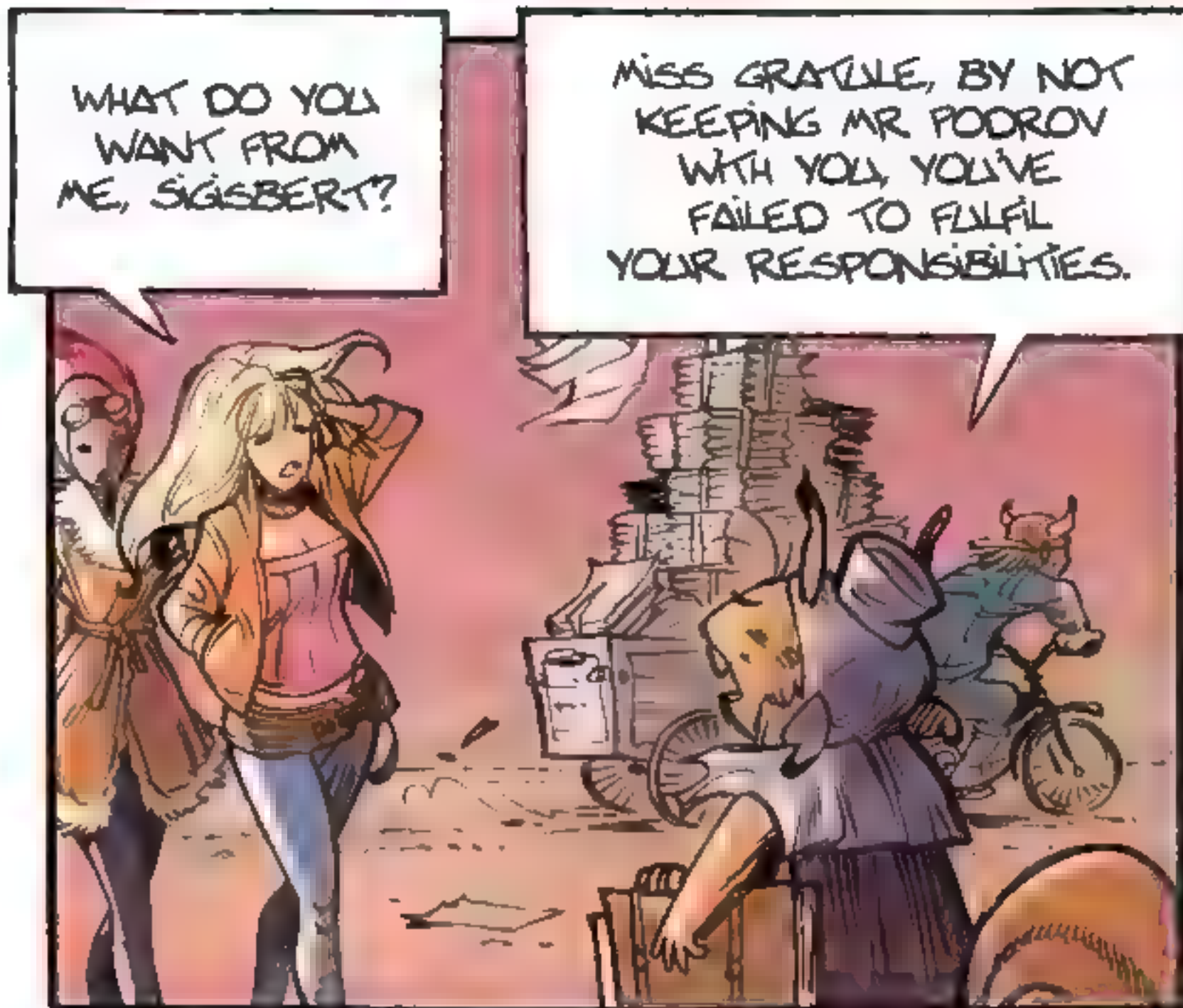
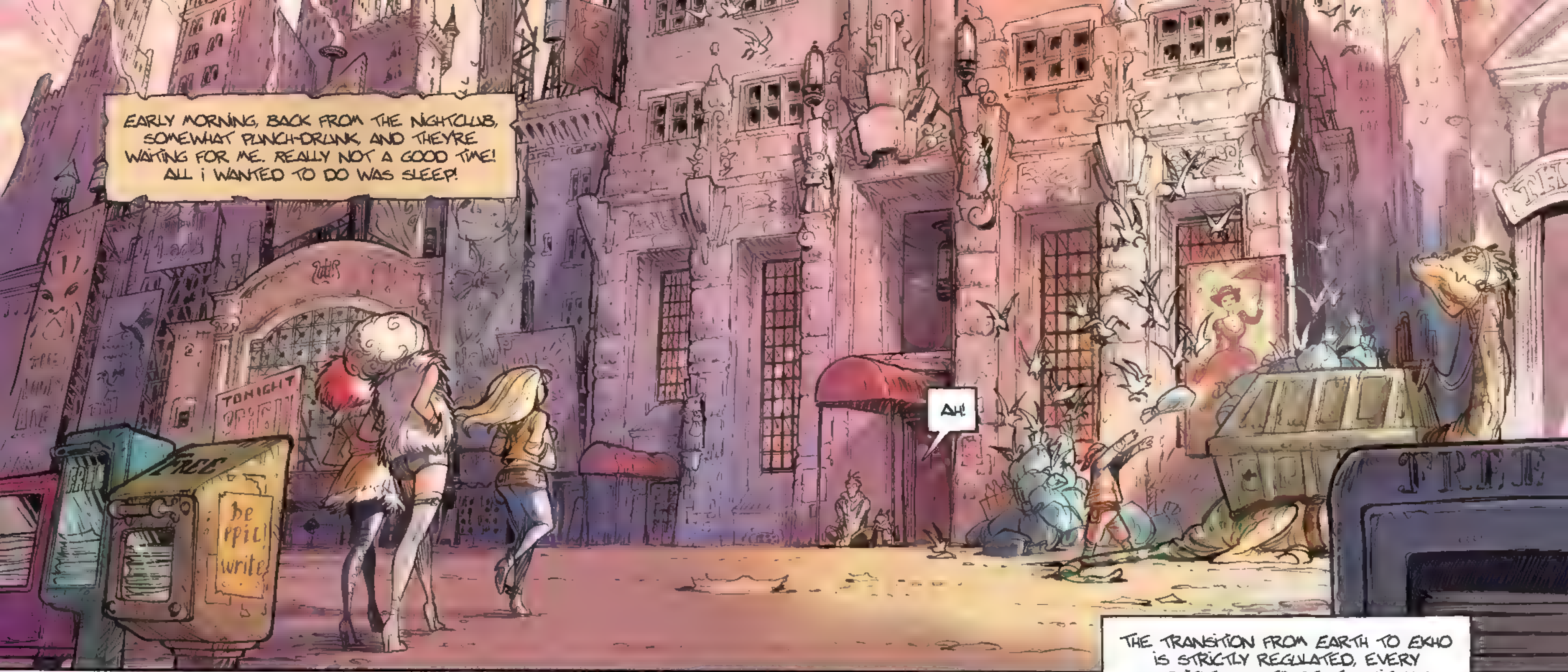


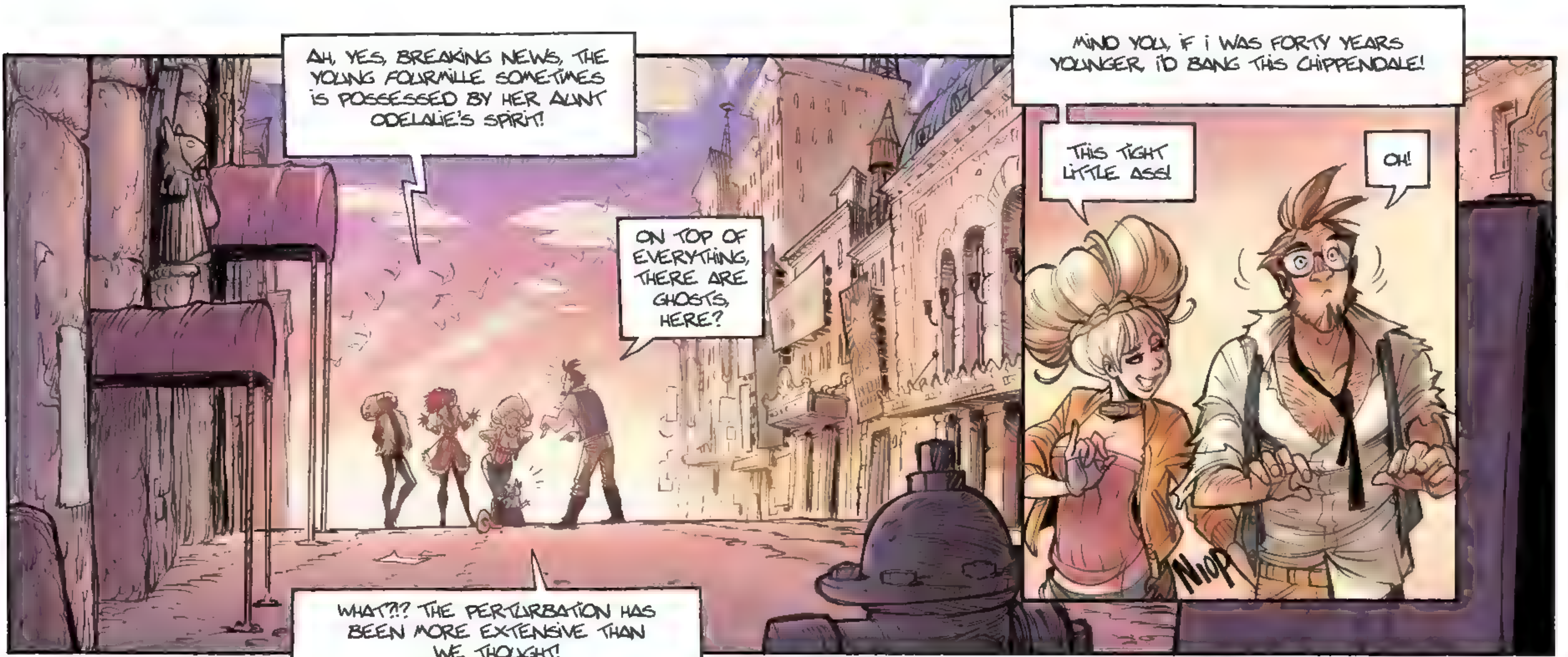












AH, YES, BREAKING NEWS, THE YOUNG FOURMILE SOMETIMES IS POSSESSED BY HER AUNT ODELAIE'S SPIRIT!

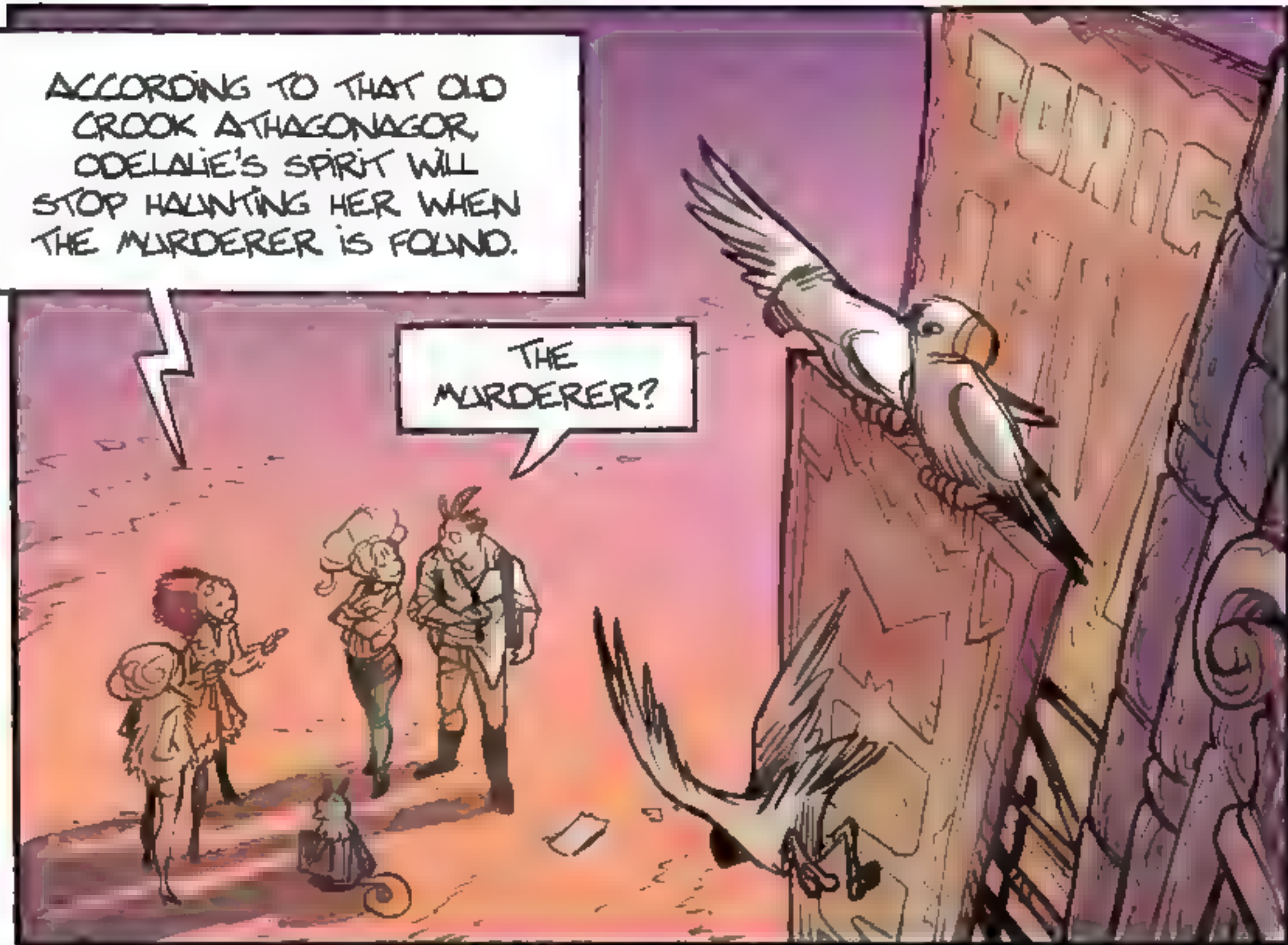
ON TOP OF EVERYTHING, THERE ARE GHOSTS HERE?

WHAT?? THE PERTURBATION HAS BEEN MORE EXTENSIVE THAN WE THOUGHT!

MIND YOU, IF I WAS FORTY YEARS YOUNGER, I'D BANG THIS CHIPPENDALE!

THIS TIGHT LITTLE ASS!

OH!



ACCORDING TO THAT OLD CROOK ATHAGONAGOR, ODELAIE'S SPIRIT WILL STOP HAUNTING HER WHEN THE MURDERER IS FOUND.

THE MURDERER?



APPARENTLY MRS GRATILE DIDN'T FALL FROM THE WINDOW BY HERSELF.

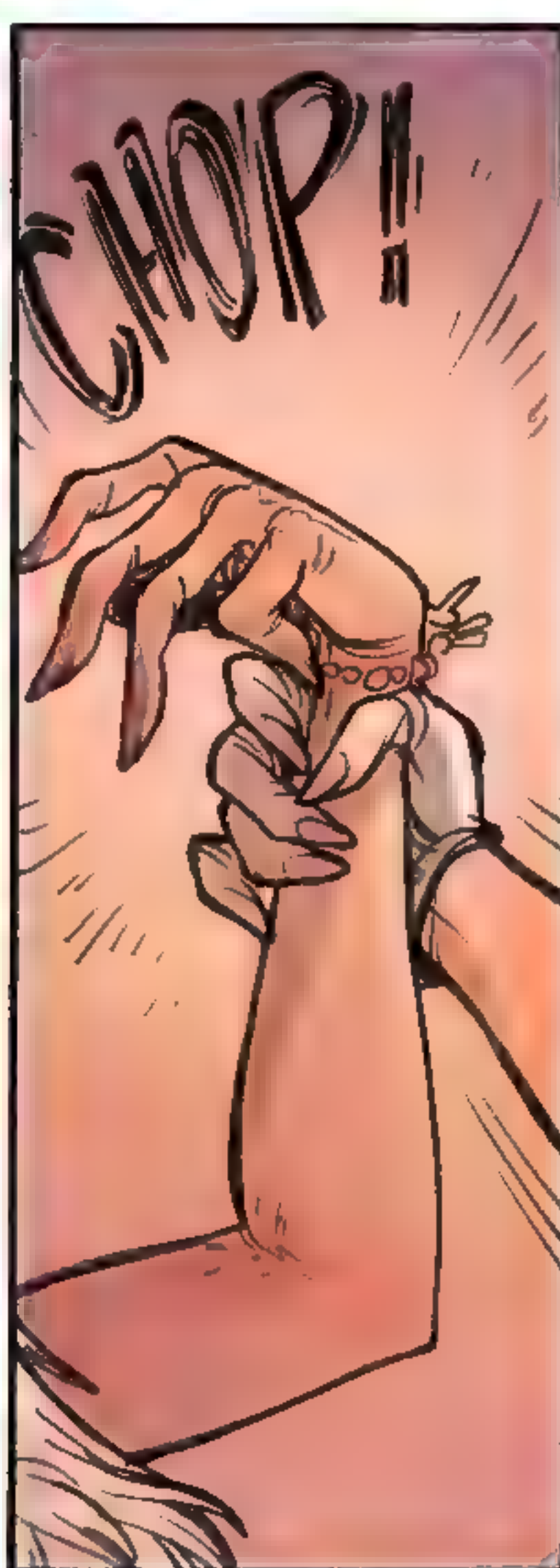


YAWWWWWN... YOUR STORY'S GREAT, BUT I'LL GO NOW. I'VE A TWO-BLOCK WALK TO GET HOME, AND I'M TIRED.

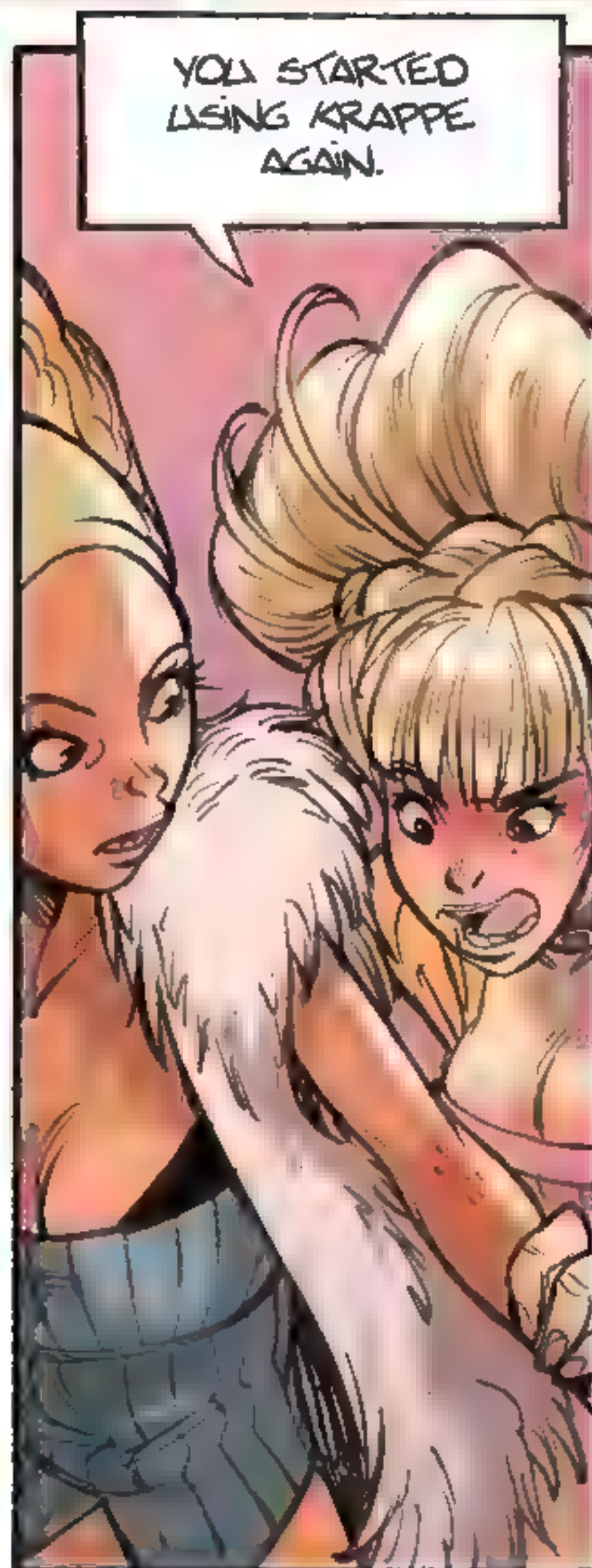


GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD DAY, EVERYONE!

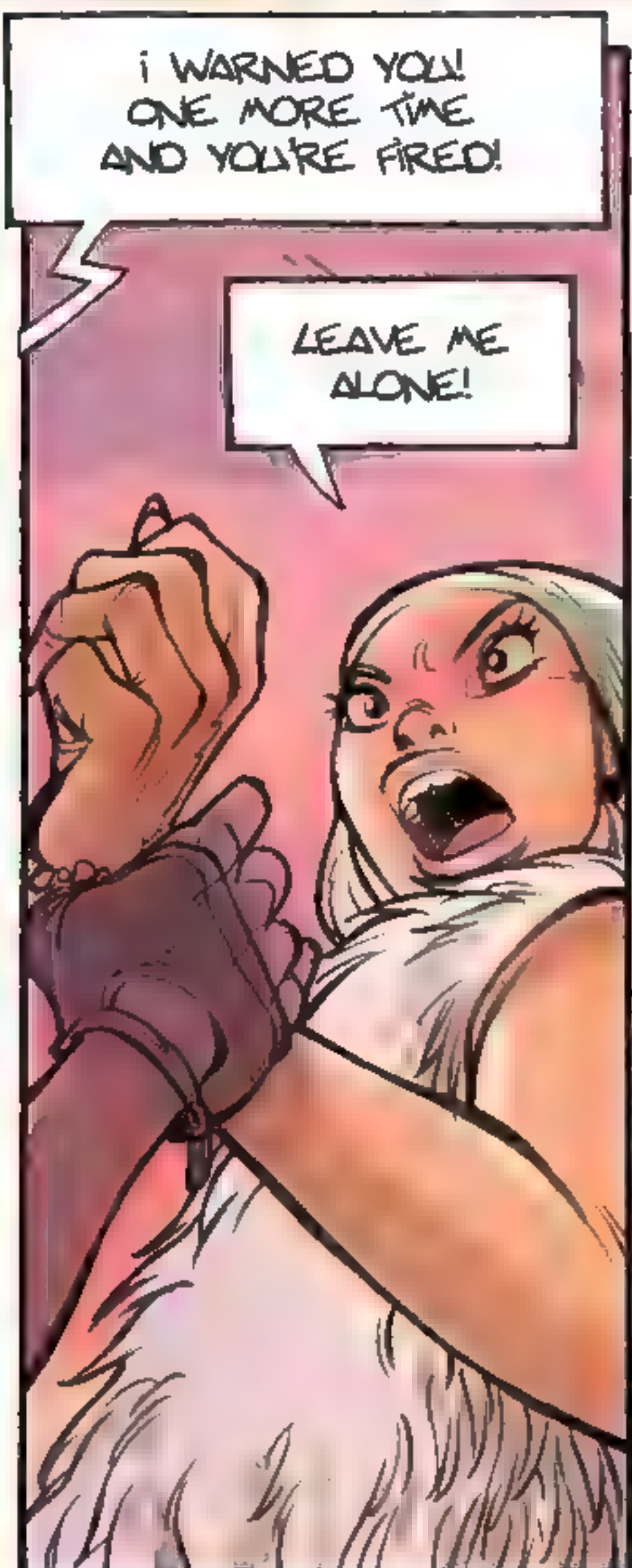
HEY, WAIT!



CHOP!



YOU STARTED USING KRAPPE AGAIN.

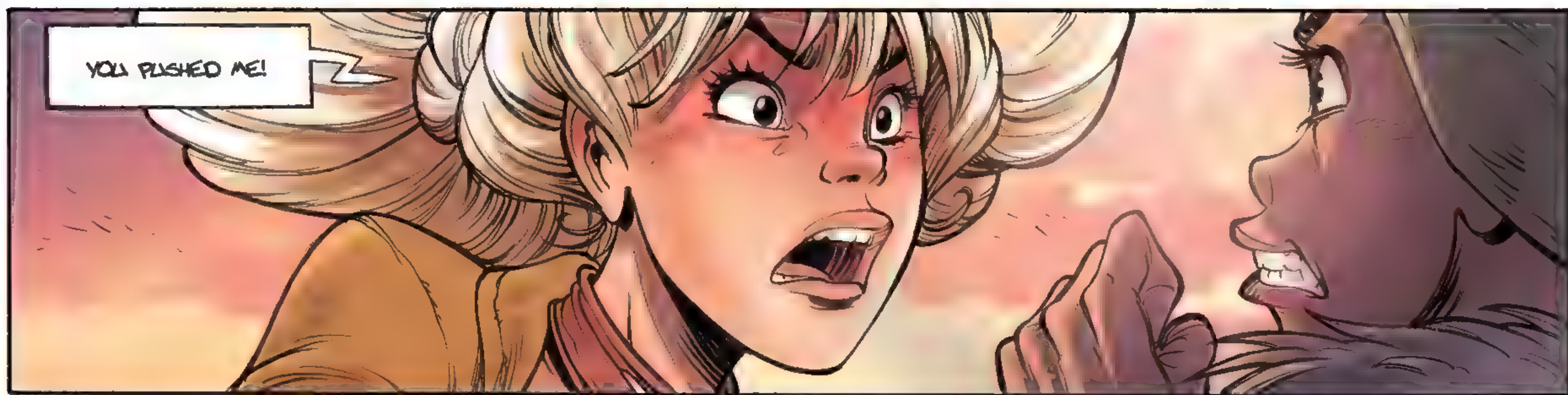


I WARNED YOU ONE MORE TIME AND YOU'RE FIRED!

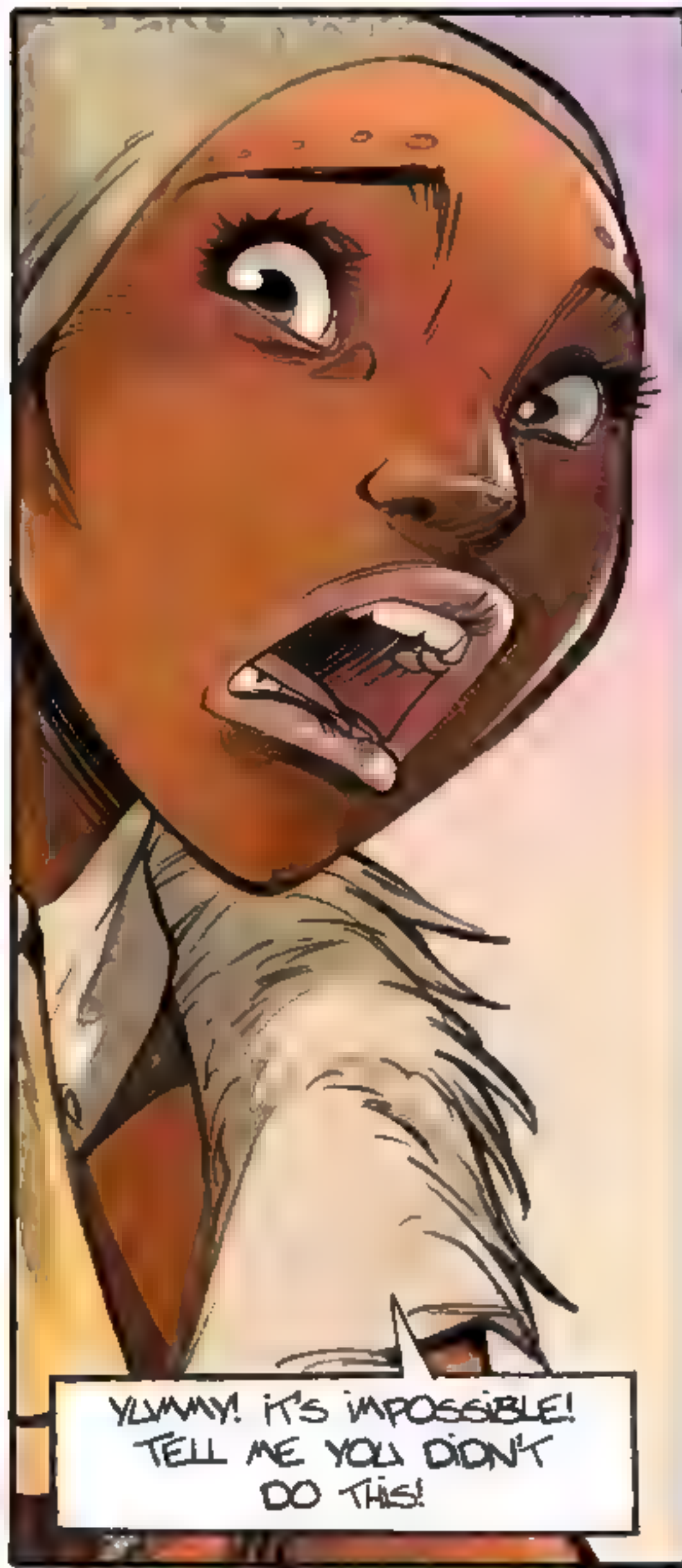
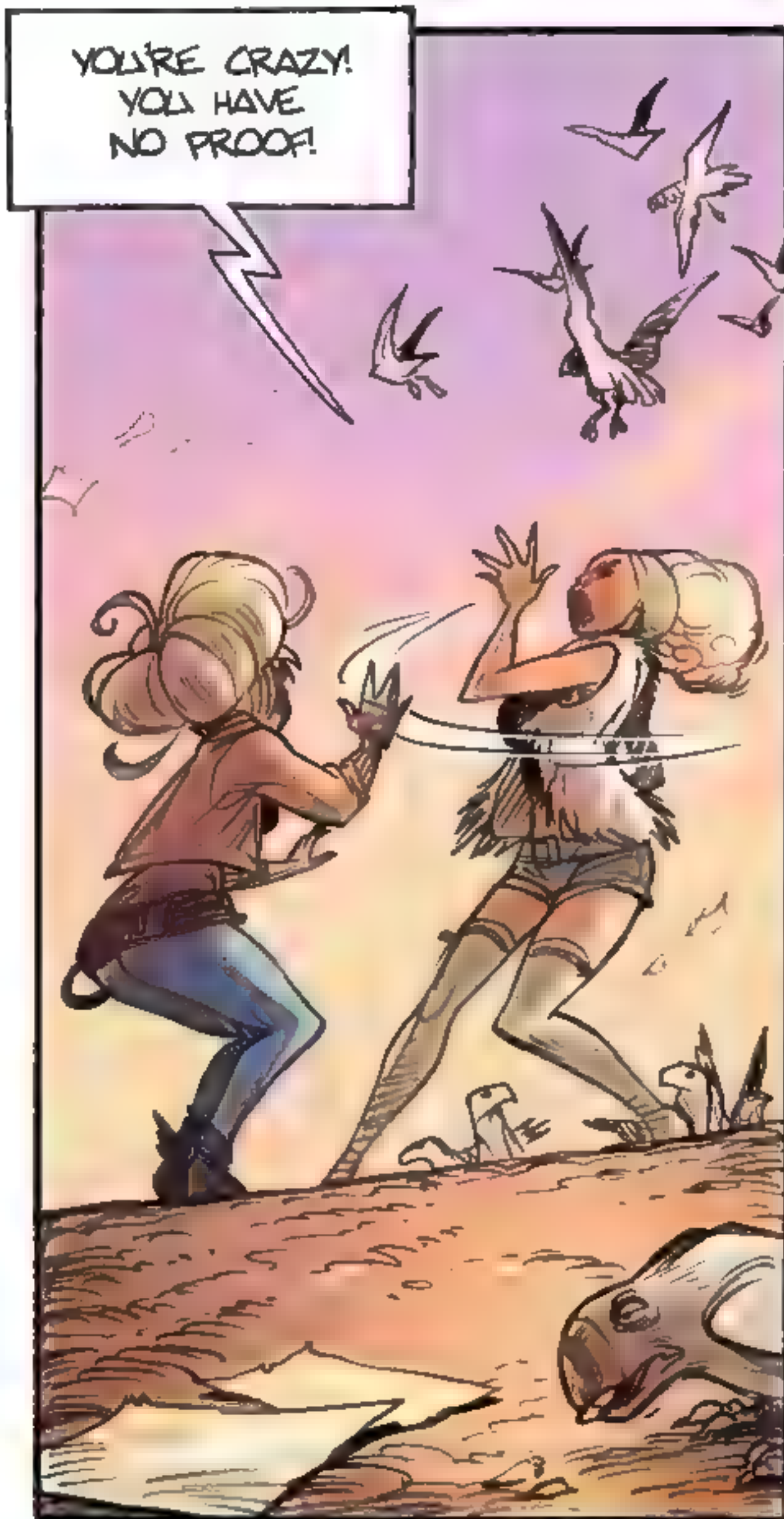
LEAVE ME ALONE!

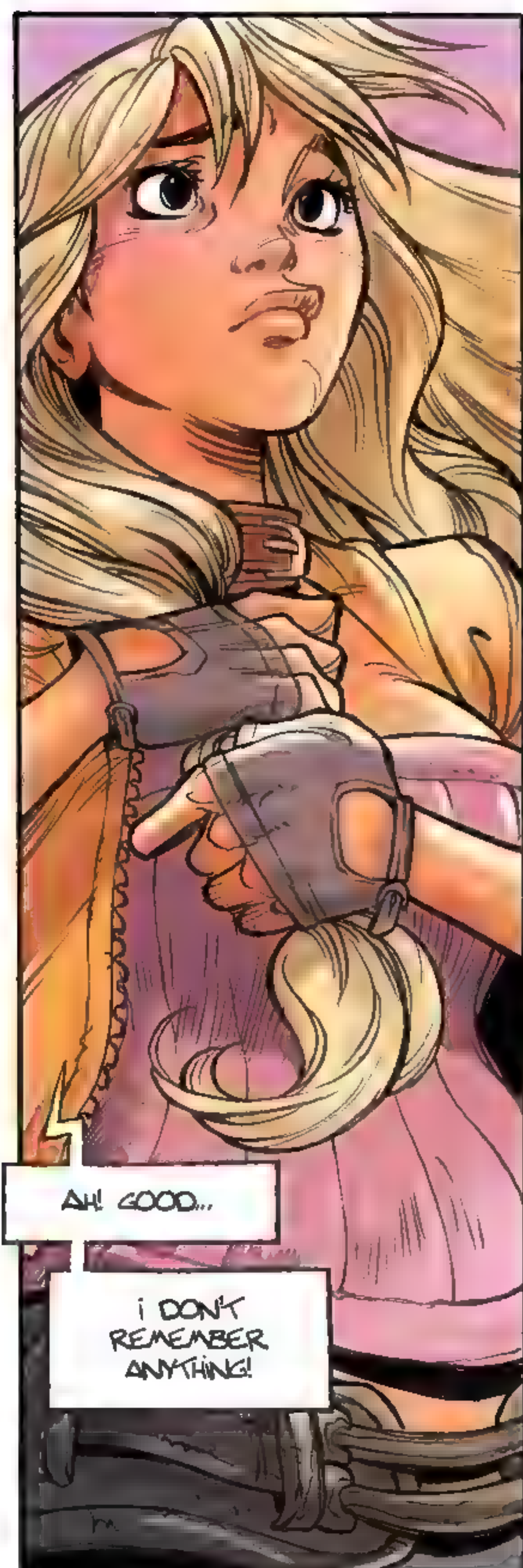
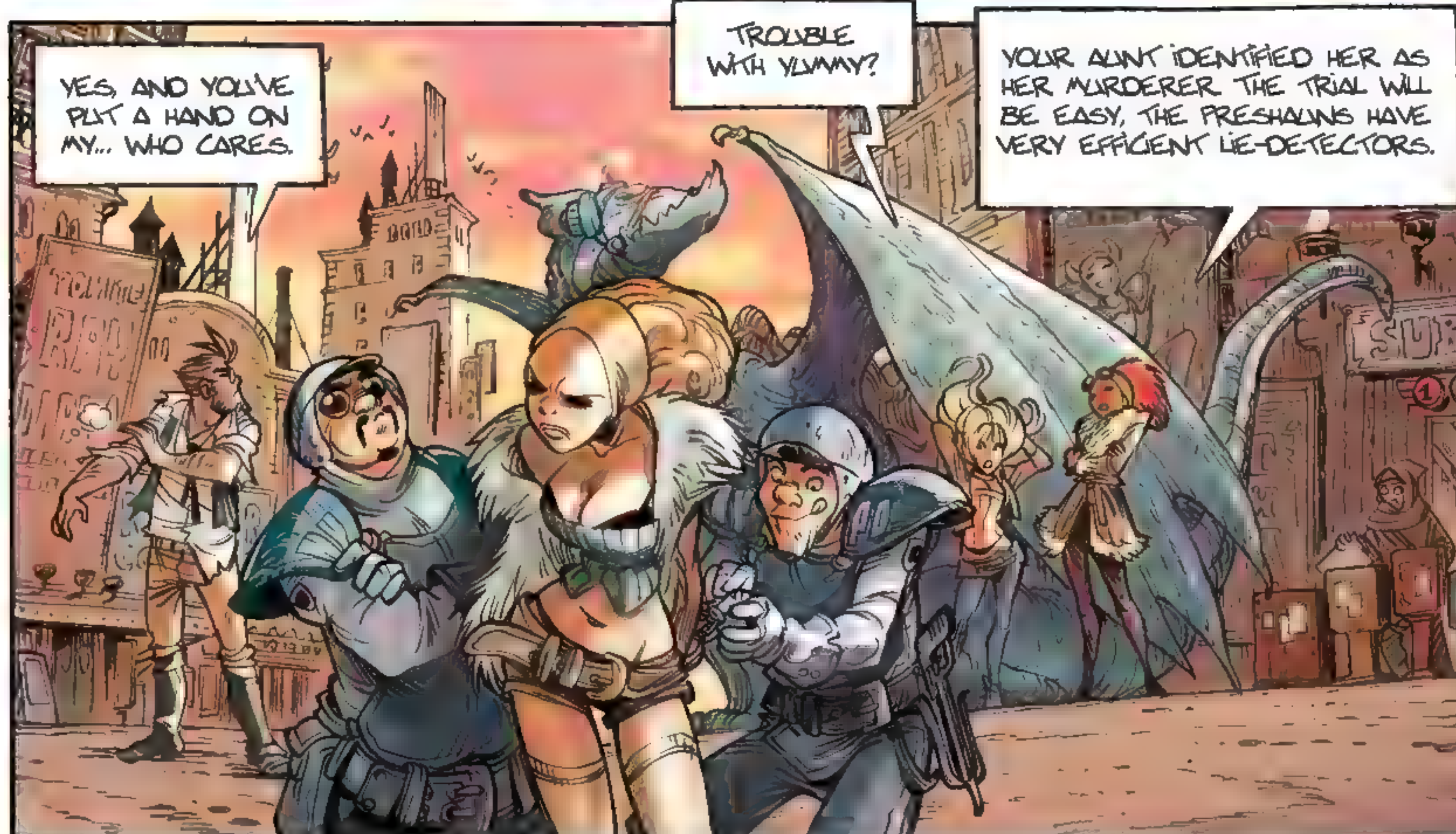
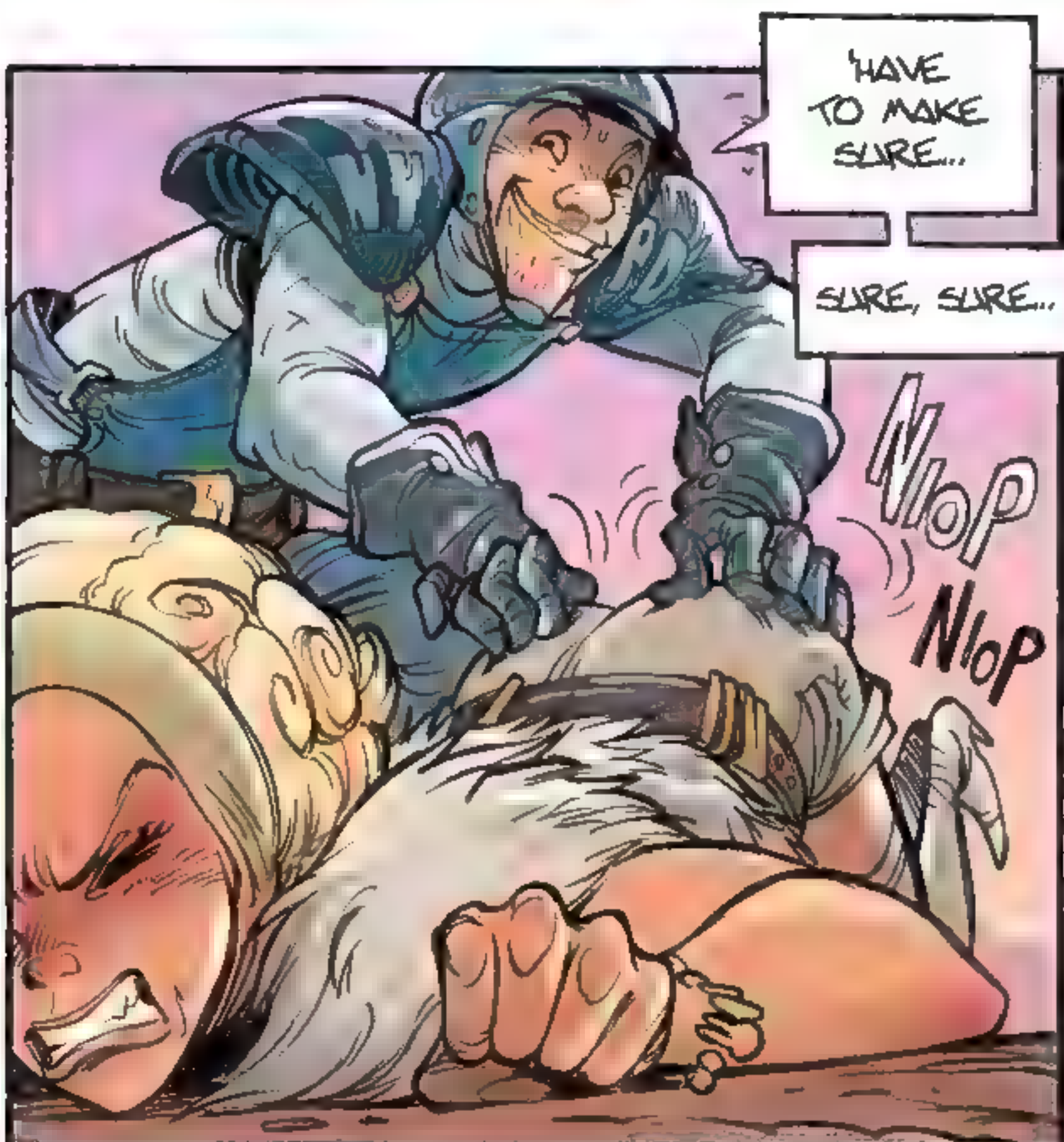


BY THE WAY... I REMEMBER NOW... I DID FIRE YOU! WE WERE ON THE TERRACE, NEXT TO THE PIGEONHOUSE, AND...



YOU PUSHED ME!





SLEEPING TOGETHER!
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

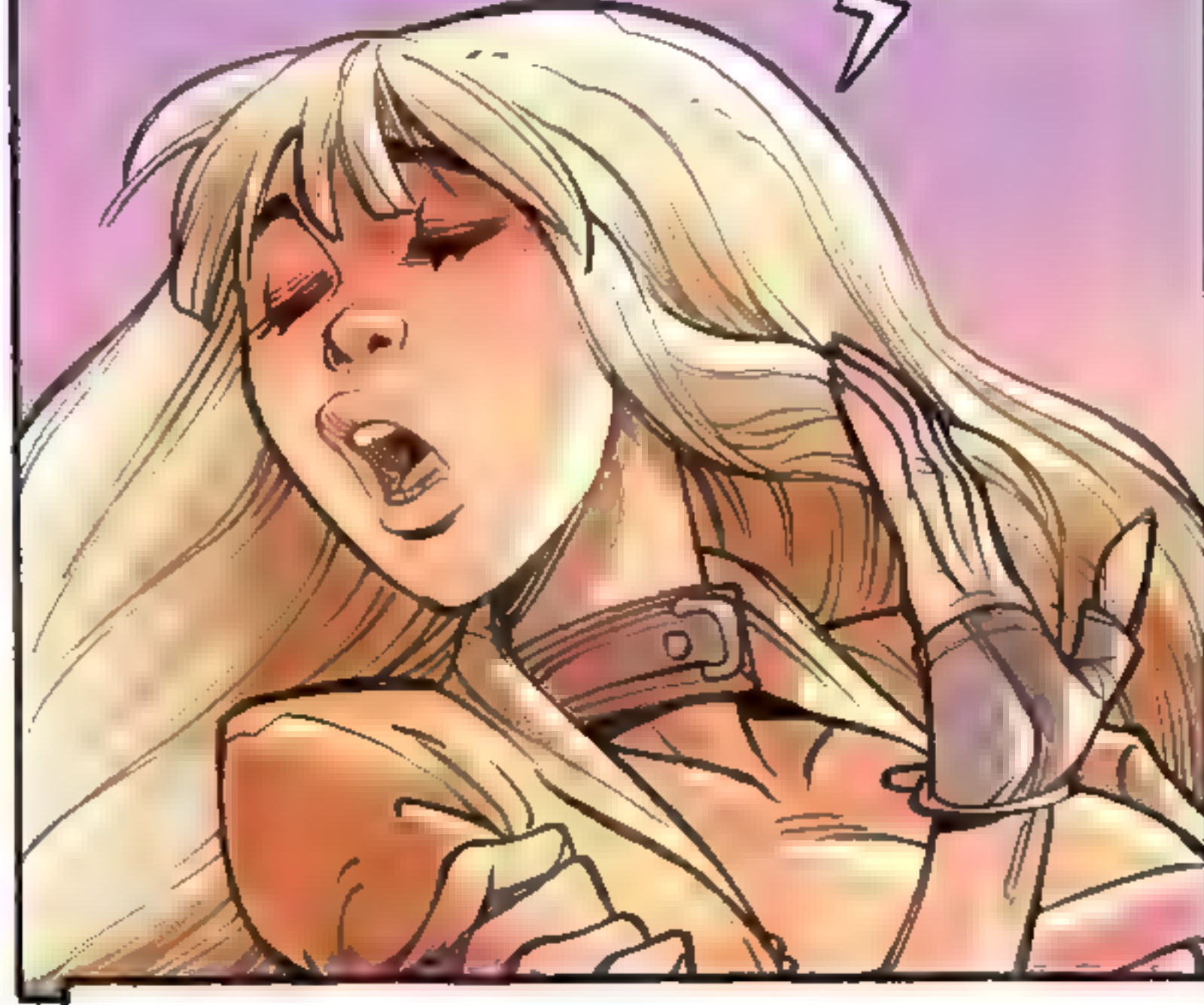
ANYWAY, YOU THINK
I'M TOO FAT, YOU SAID IT!

NOT AT
ALL!

SO YOU WANNA
SLEEP WITH ME?

NO! WELL YES!
BUT I MEAN... IT'S
NOT ABOUT THAT.

PFF! YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHAT YOU WANT!



I'M GOING TO
SLEEP... ALONE
AND THAT'S
ALL RIGHT!

IN THE OFFICE?



NO, I HAVE AN APARTMENT AT
THE SEVENTEENTH FLOOR! IT'S
CONVENIENT TO GO TO WORK!



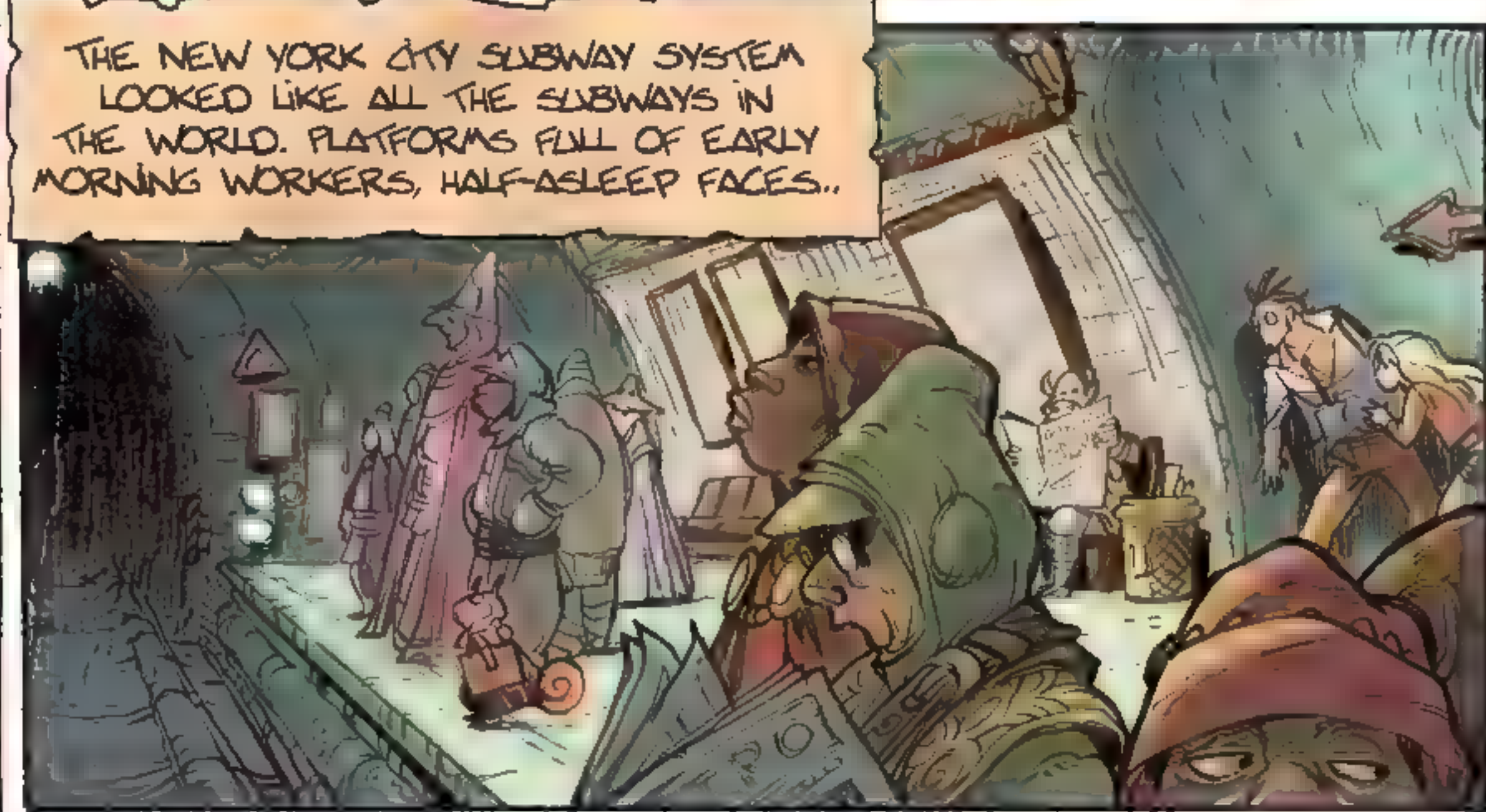
LISTEN, FOURMILLE, THE PRESALINS ARE
HIDING SOMETHING. I'M GONNA FOLLOW
SIGSBERT BEFORE HE DISAPPEARS.

YAWWWWW! ...
I'M GOING WITH YOU.

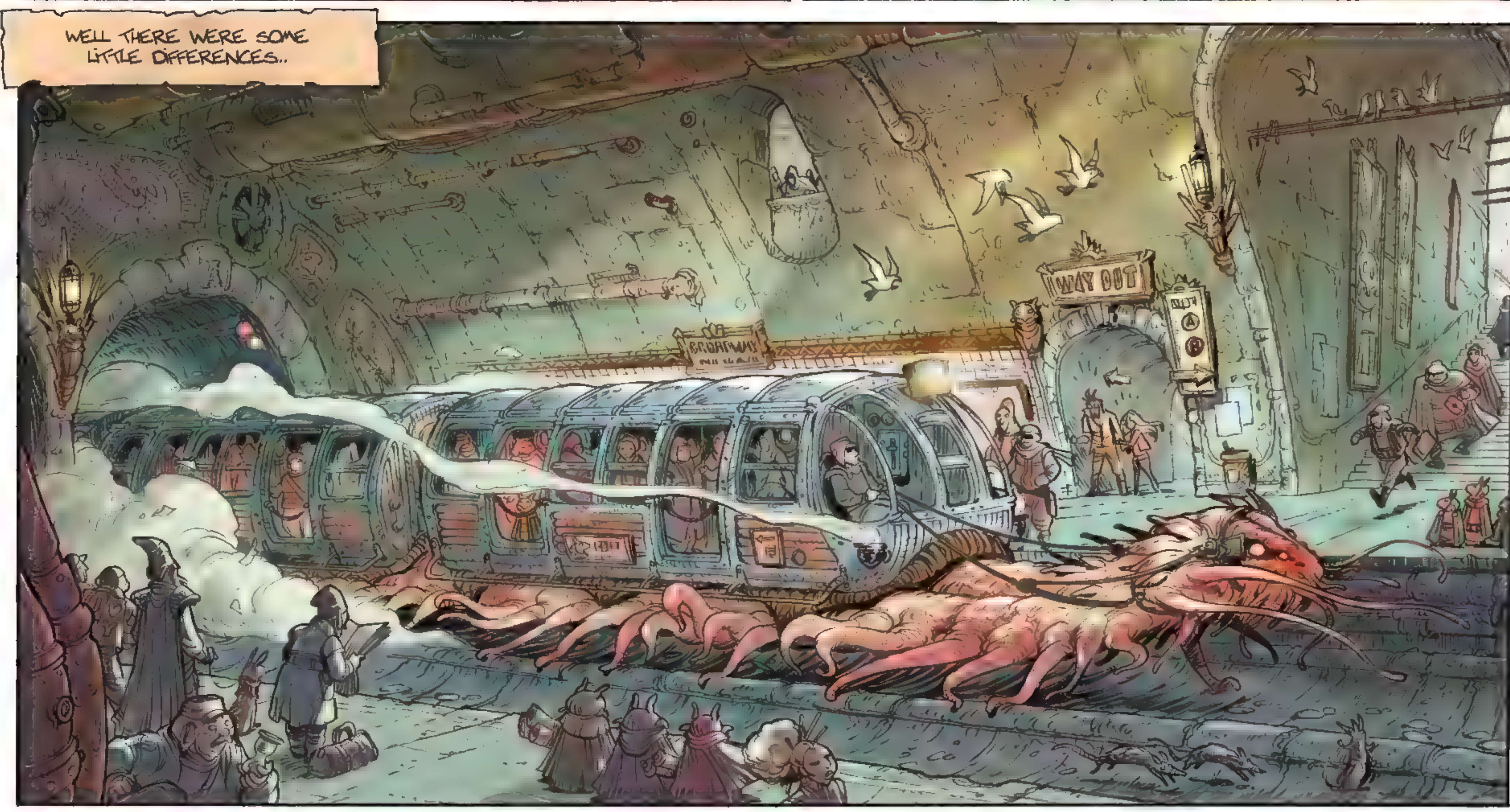


DISCRETION
HUU!

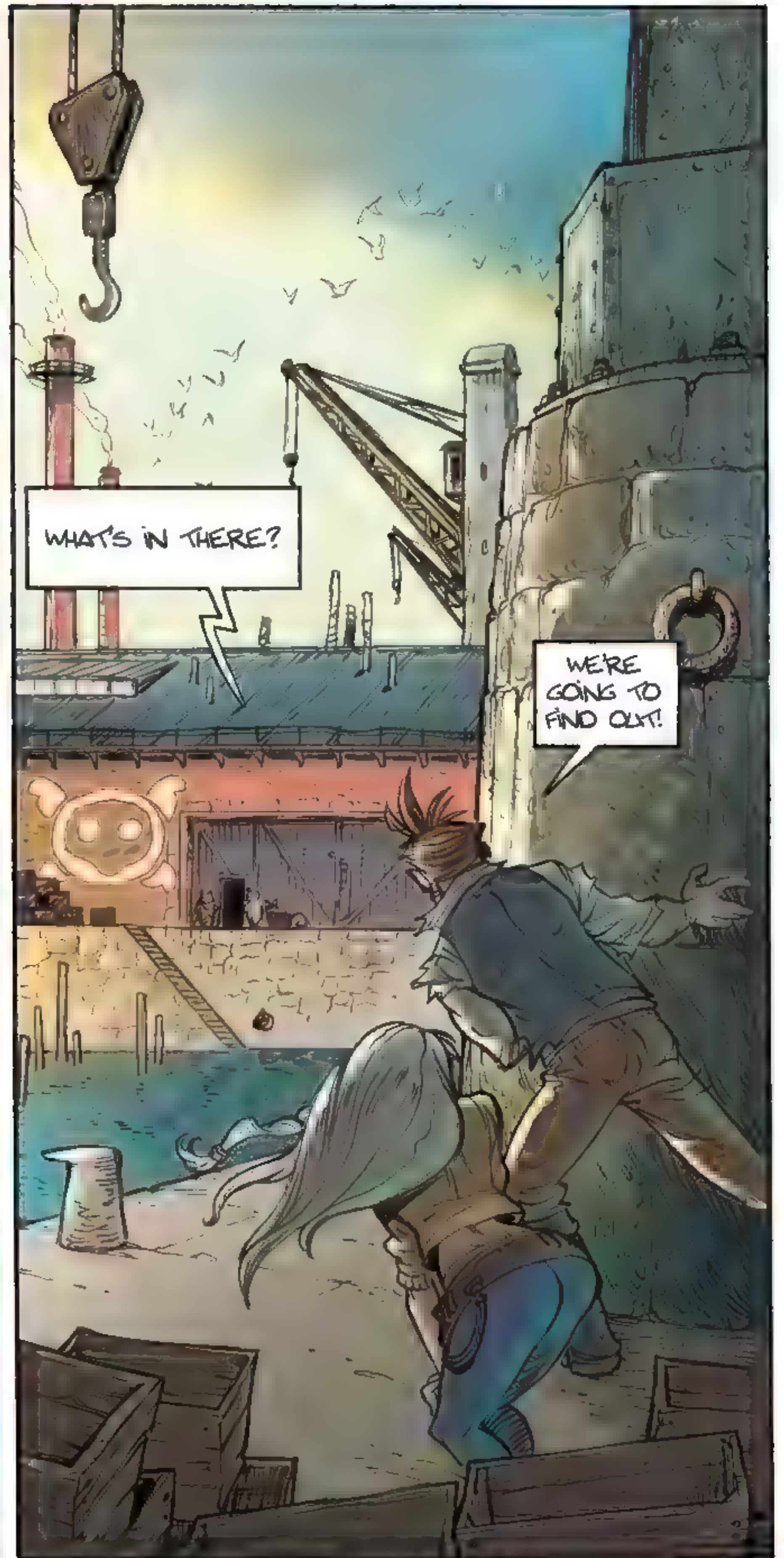
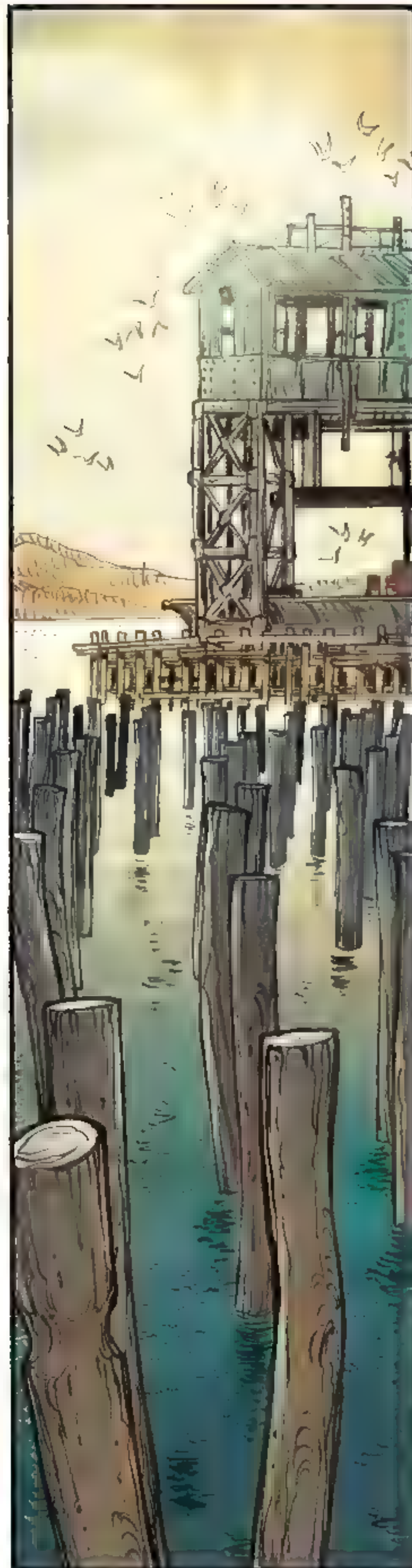
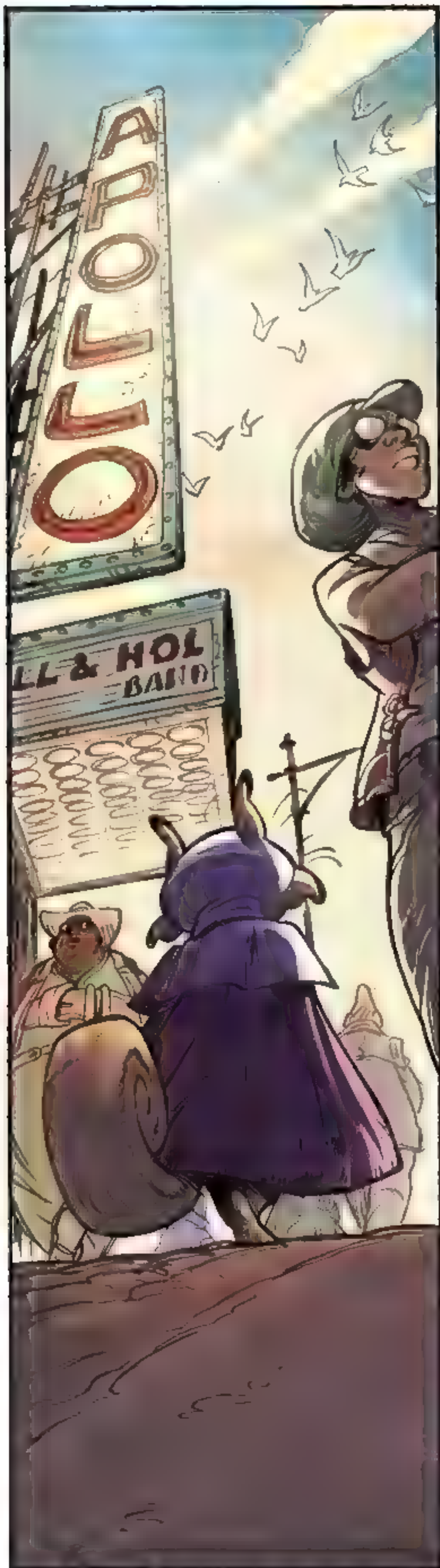
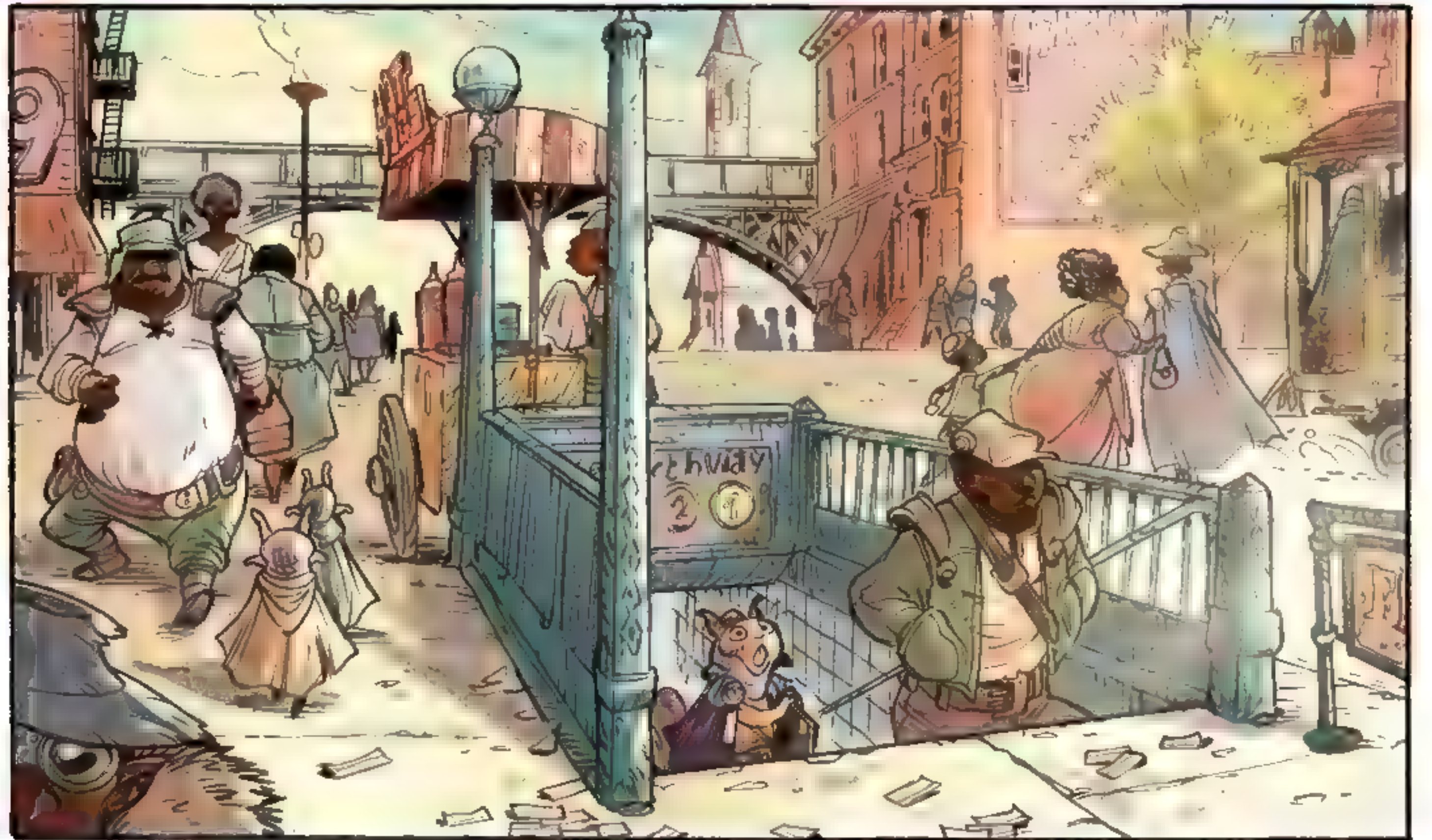
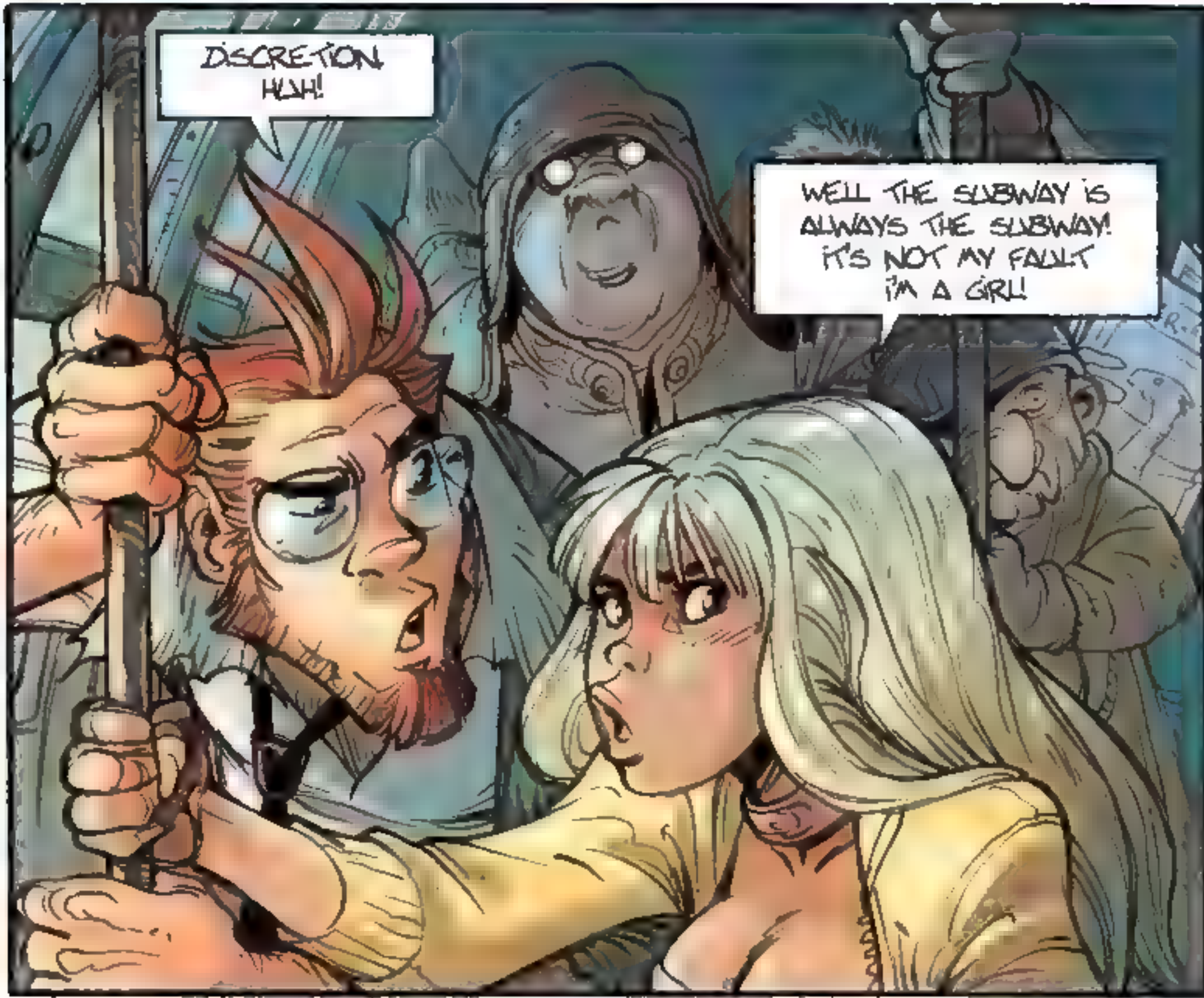
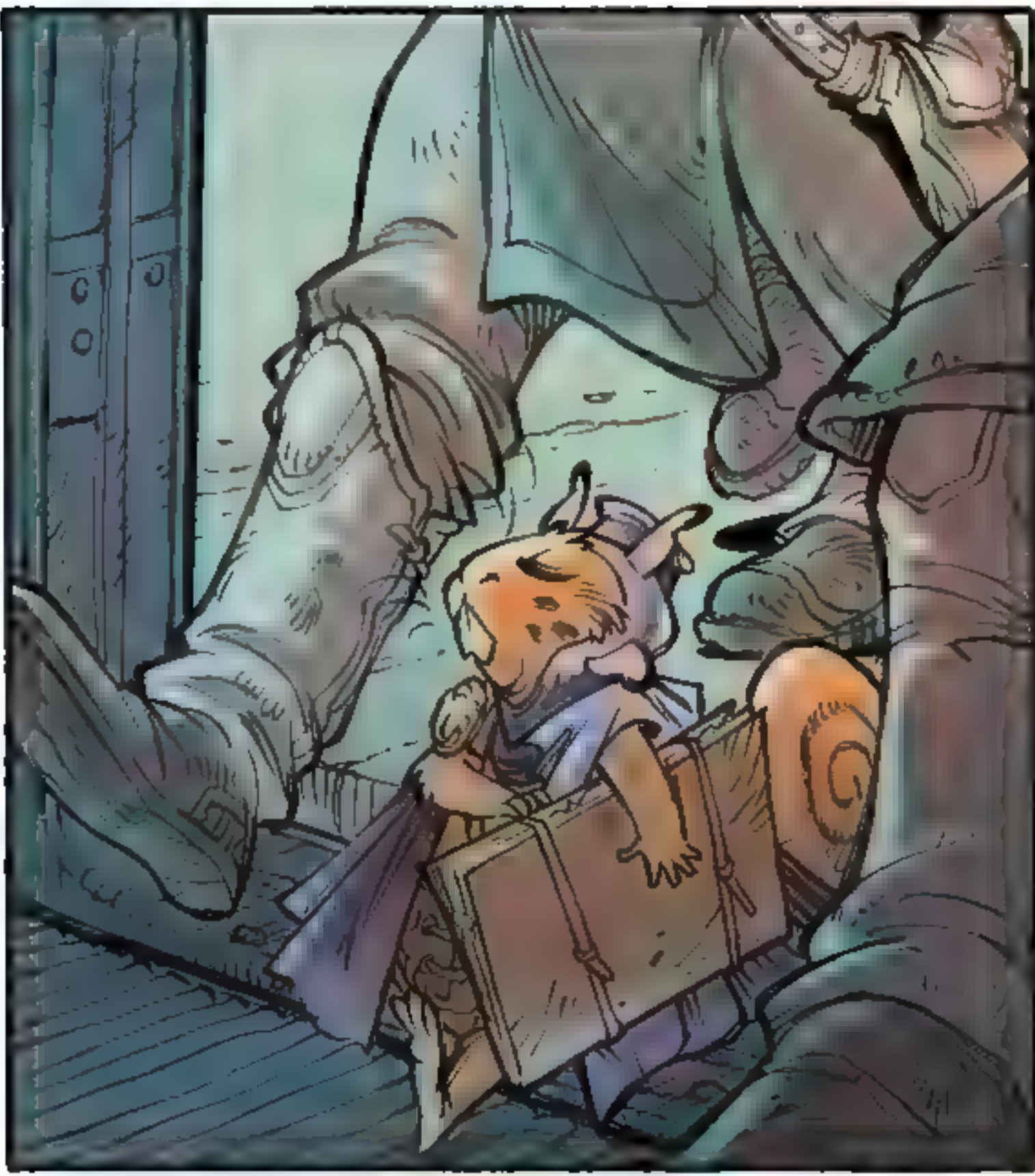
OF
COURSE!

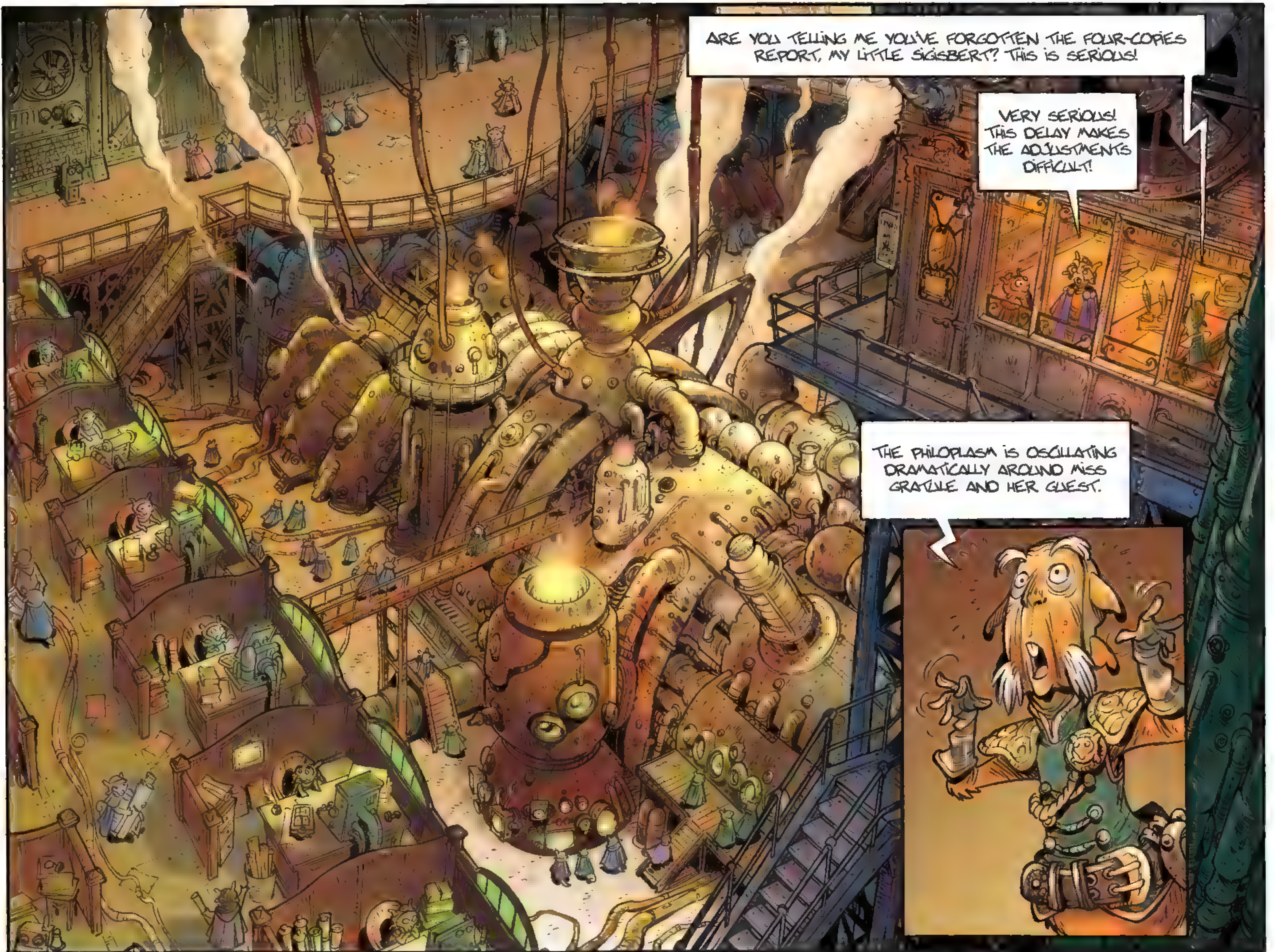


THE NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY SYSTEM
LOOKED LIKE ALL THE SUBWAYS IN
THE WORLD. PLATFORMS FULL OF EARLY
MORNING WORKERS, HALF-ASLEEP FACES...



WELL THERE WERE SOME
LITTLE DIFFERENCES...





ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE FOUR-COPES REPORT, MY LITTLE SIGISBERT? THIS IS SERIOUS!

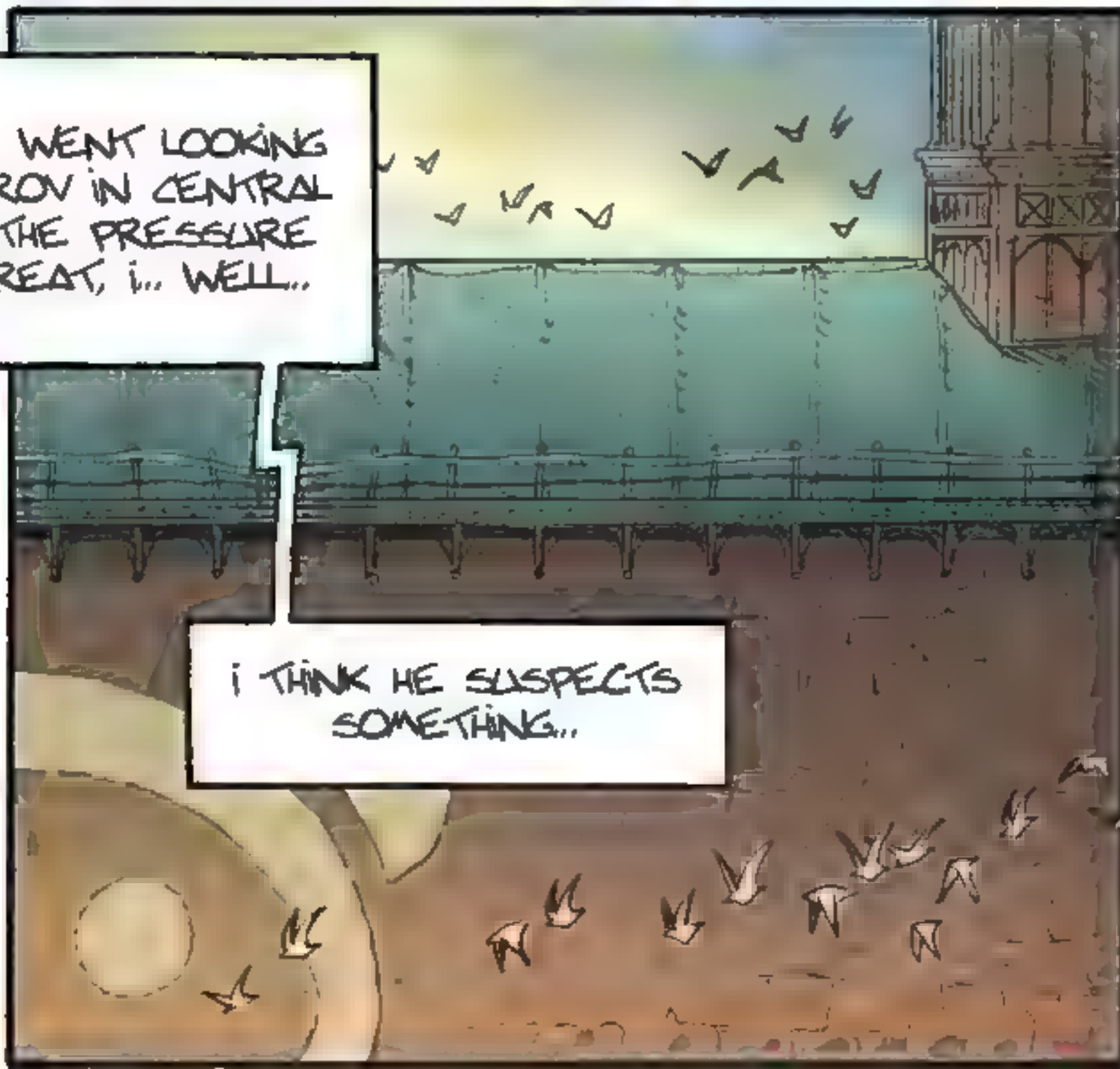
VERY SERIOUS! THIS DELAY MAKES THE ADJUSTMENTS DIFFICULT!

THE PHILOPLASM IS OSCILLATING DRAMATICALLY AROUND MISS GRATULE AND HER GUEST.



I KNOW, IT'S ENTIRELY MY FAULT...

LAST NIGHT, I WENT LOOKING FOR MR PODROV IN CENTRAL PARK AND... THE PRESSURE WAS TOO GREAT, I... WELL...



I THINK HE SUSPECTS SOMETHING...



LET GO OF ME, NOW!
LET US IN! WHERE IS SIGISBERT?

??



AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'VE BROUGHT THEM HERE??? YOU'RE RECKLESS, MY SON!



AH, HERE YOU ARE! I DEMAND SOME ANSWERS!

!!!!!!

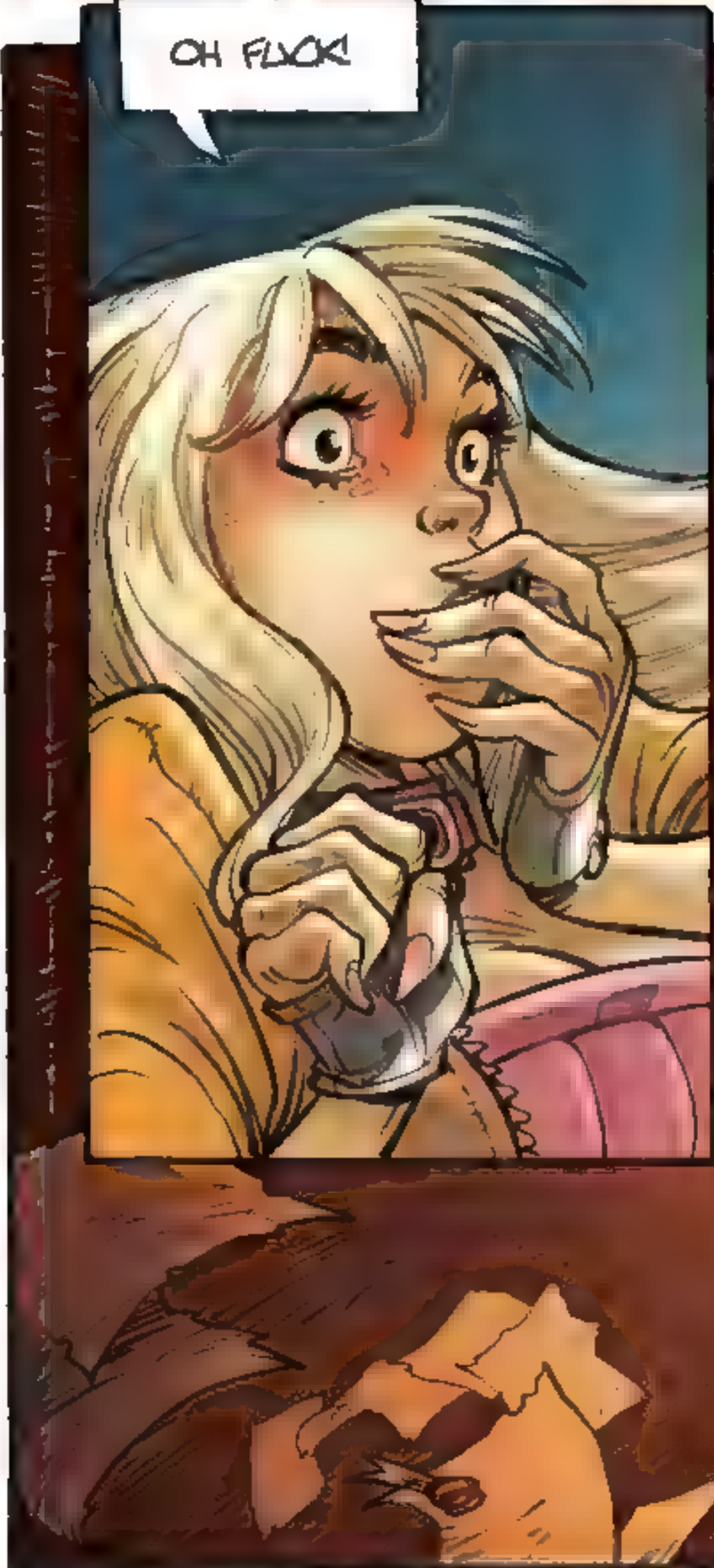


DO YOU PULL US AWAY FROM OUR WORLD WITH THESE DEVICES?

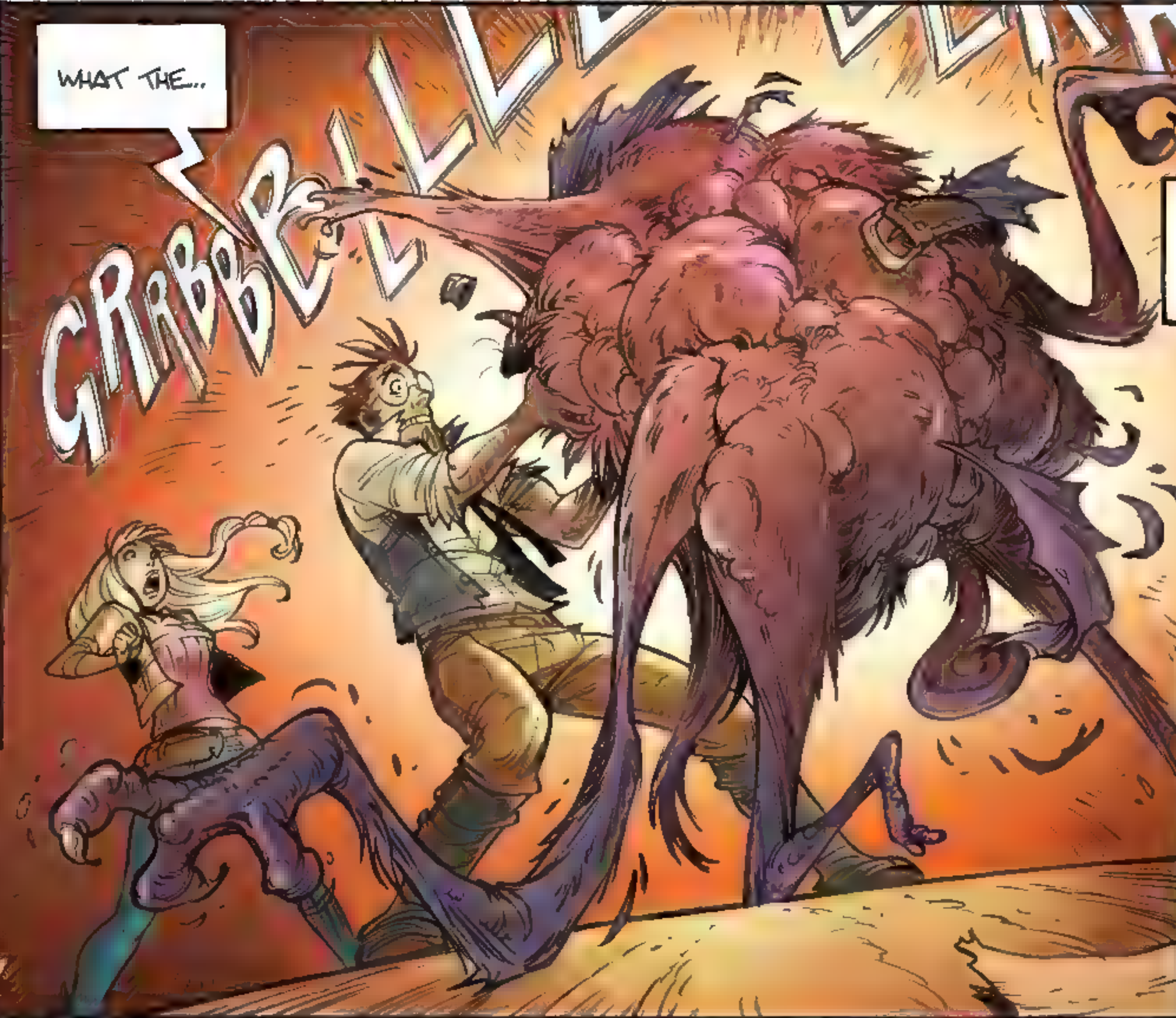


HOW COMES THE BUTTON I TOOK FROM THE MONSTER WAS YOURS, HUH? IT WAS YOURS, HUH?

DON'T DO THAT! PLEASE! HE'S UNSTEADY!



OH FLOO!



WHAT THE...

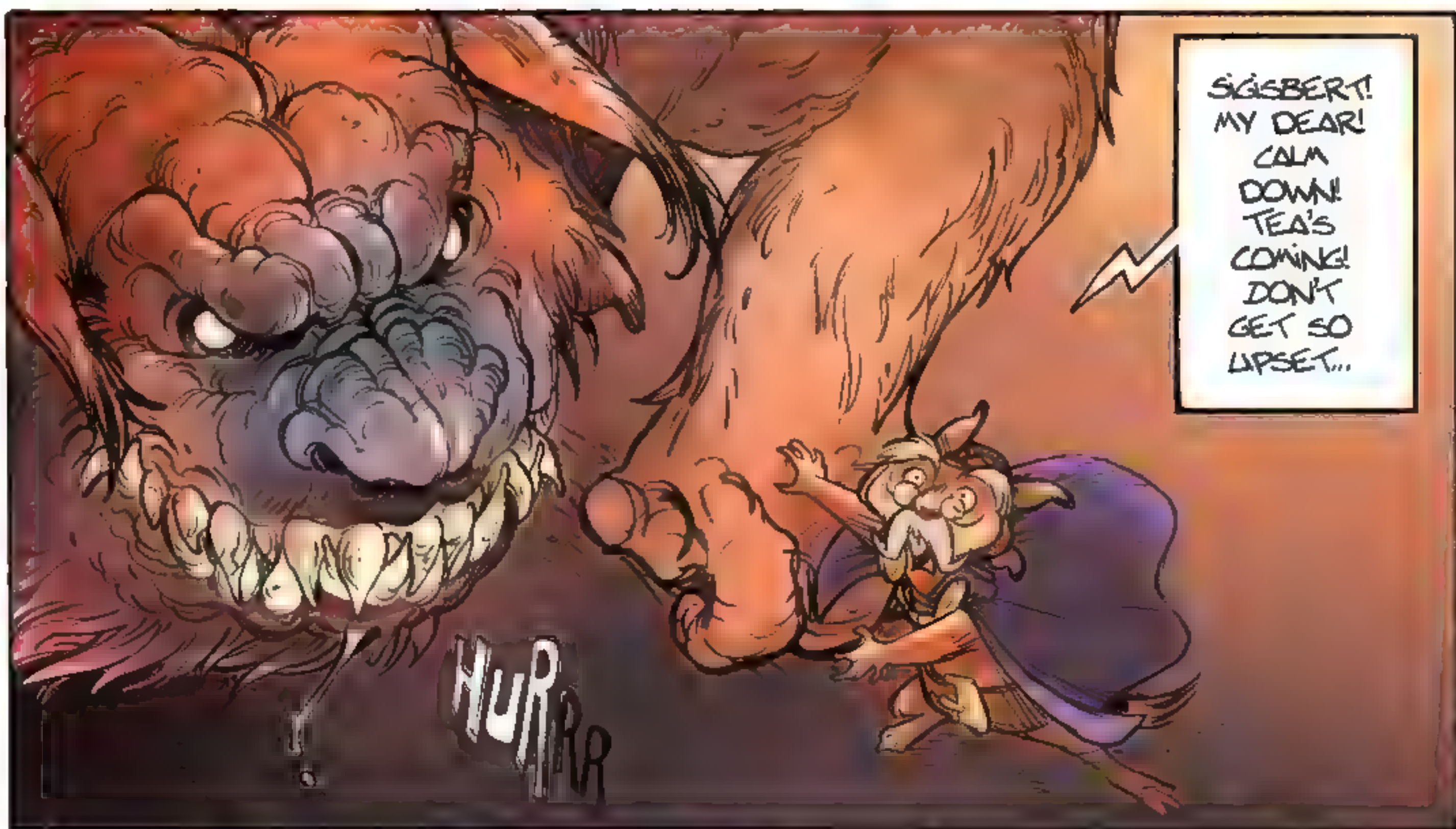
GRABBER!

TEA! HURRY, SOME TEA! EMERGENCY!



WE BETTER GO, RIGHT?

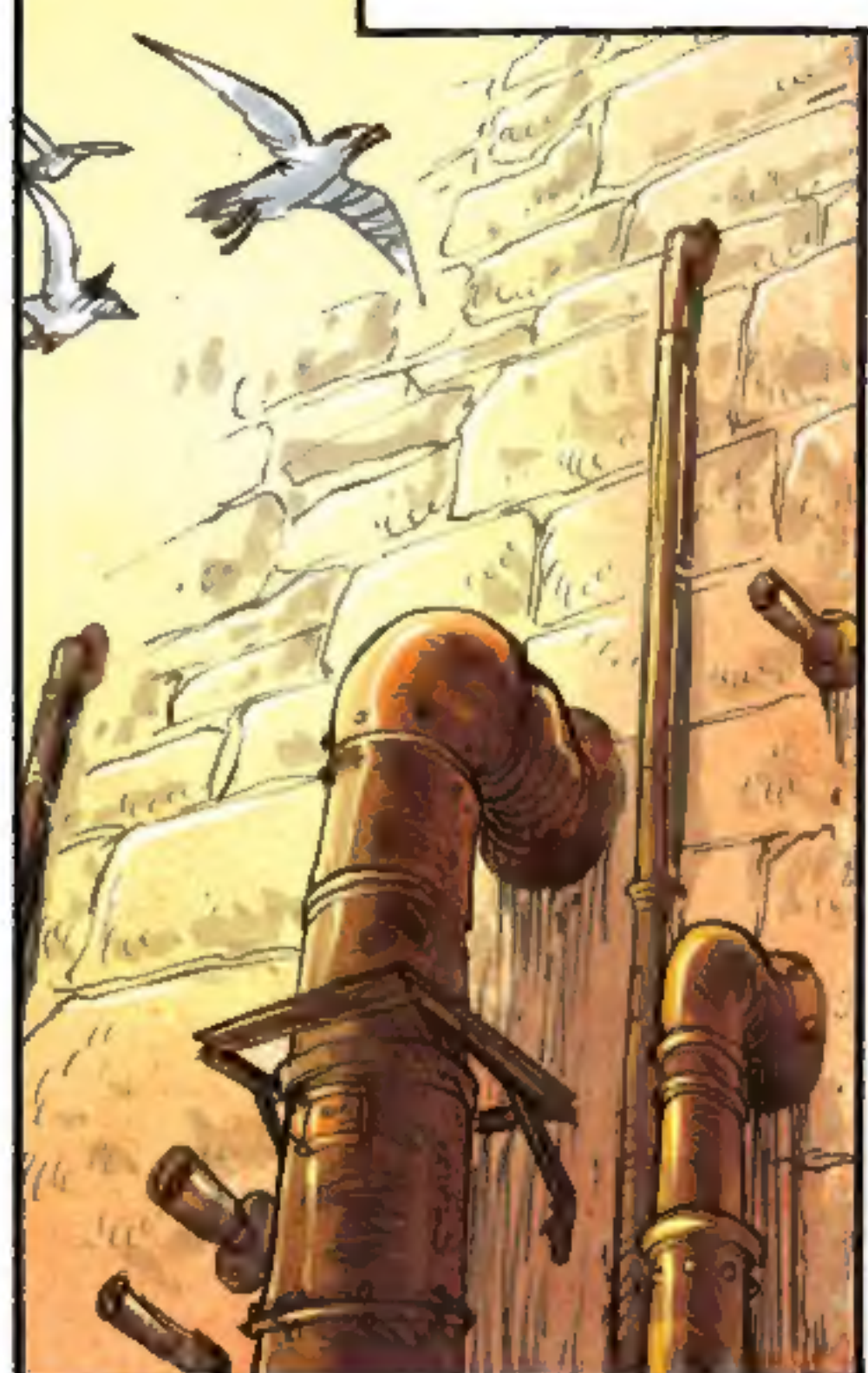
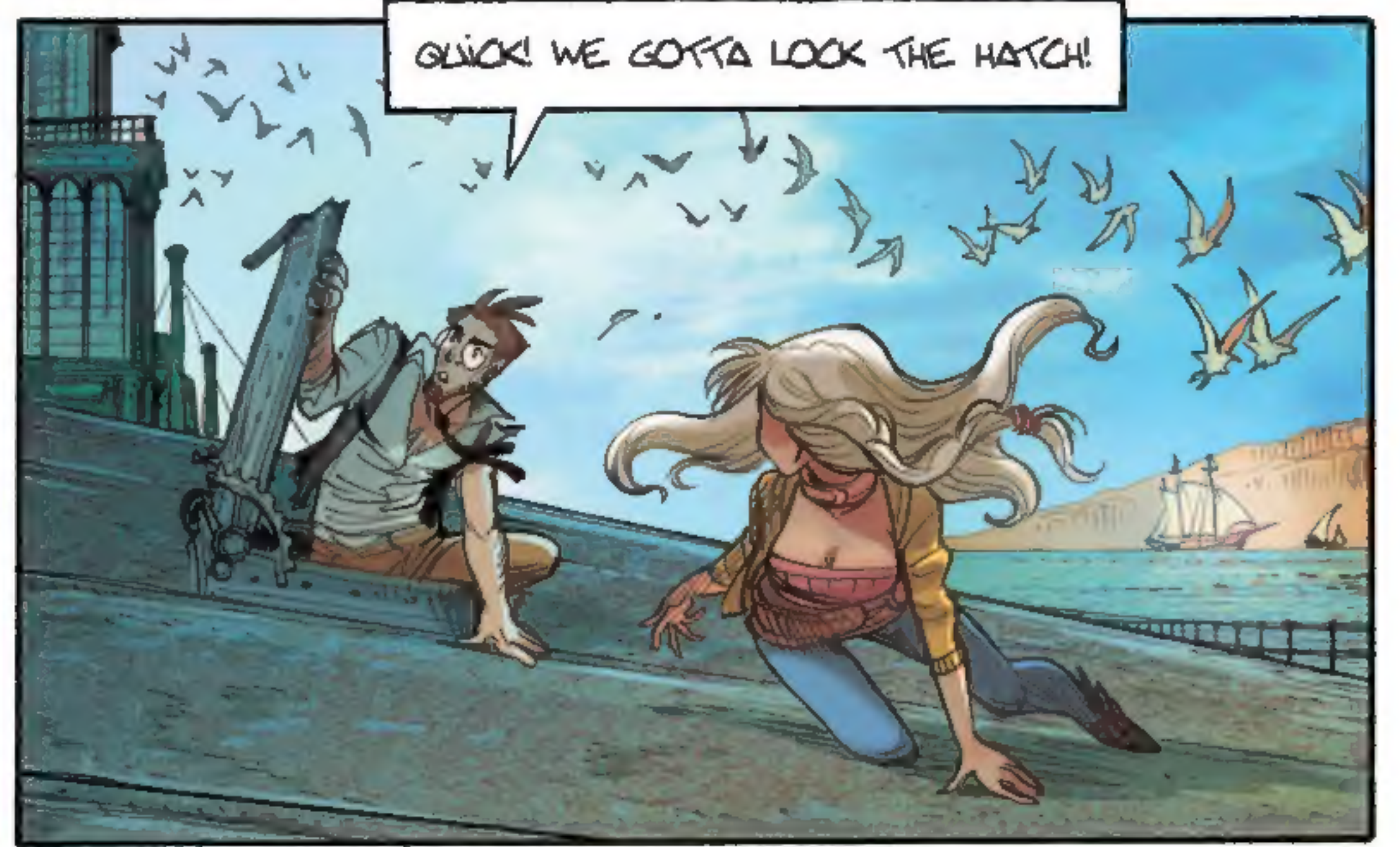
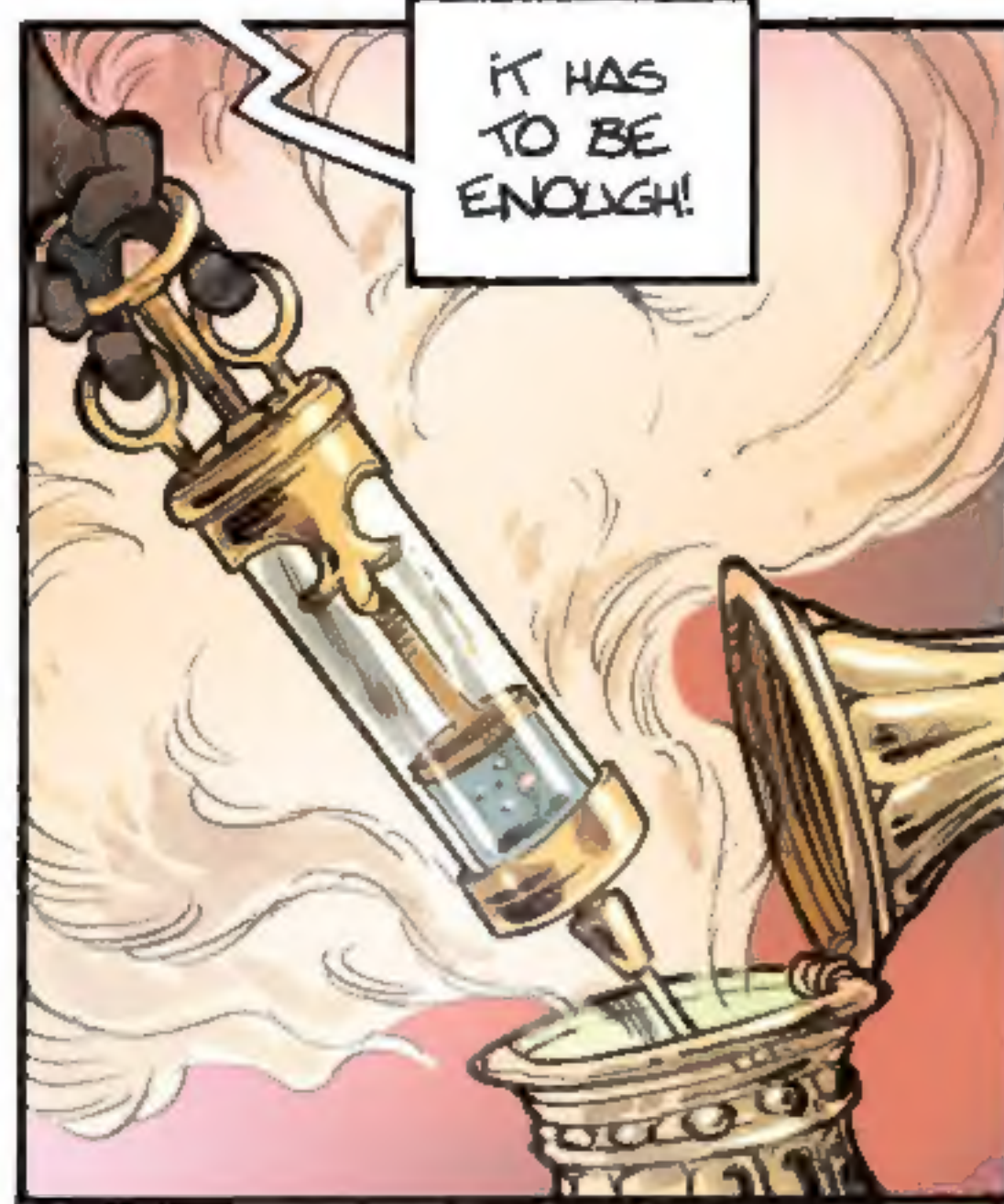
YES! BETTER GO!



SIGSBERT! MY DEAR! CALM DOWN! TEA'S COMING! DON'T GET SO UPSET...



SIGSBERT!





IS IT CEYLON?

NO, CHINESE GREEN TEA THE STRONGEST.

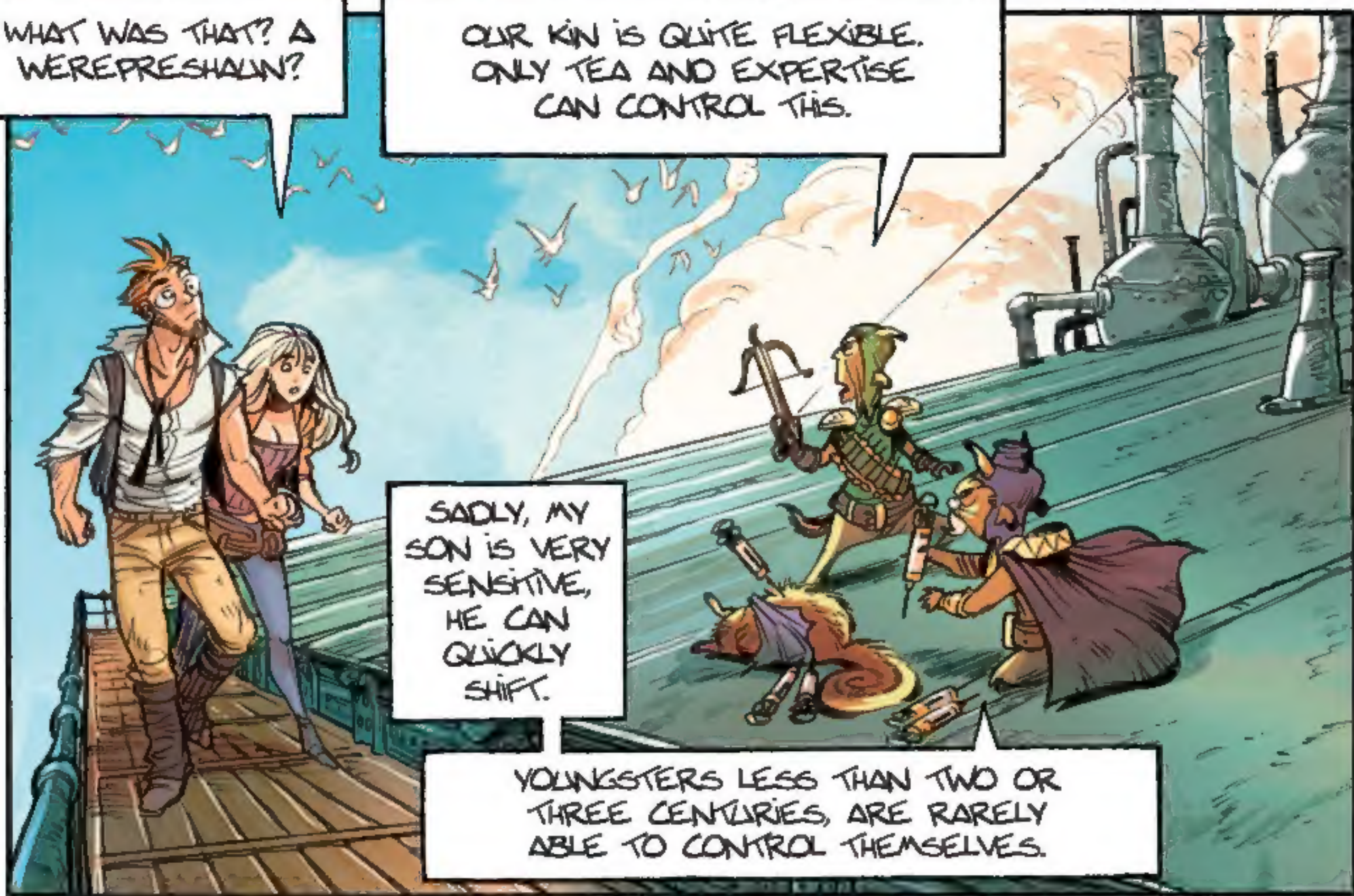


TEEEAAAAA...



YESSSSSS, TEEAAAAA...

THUNG

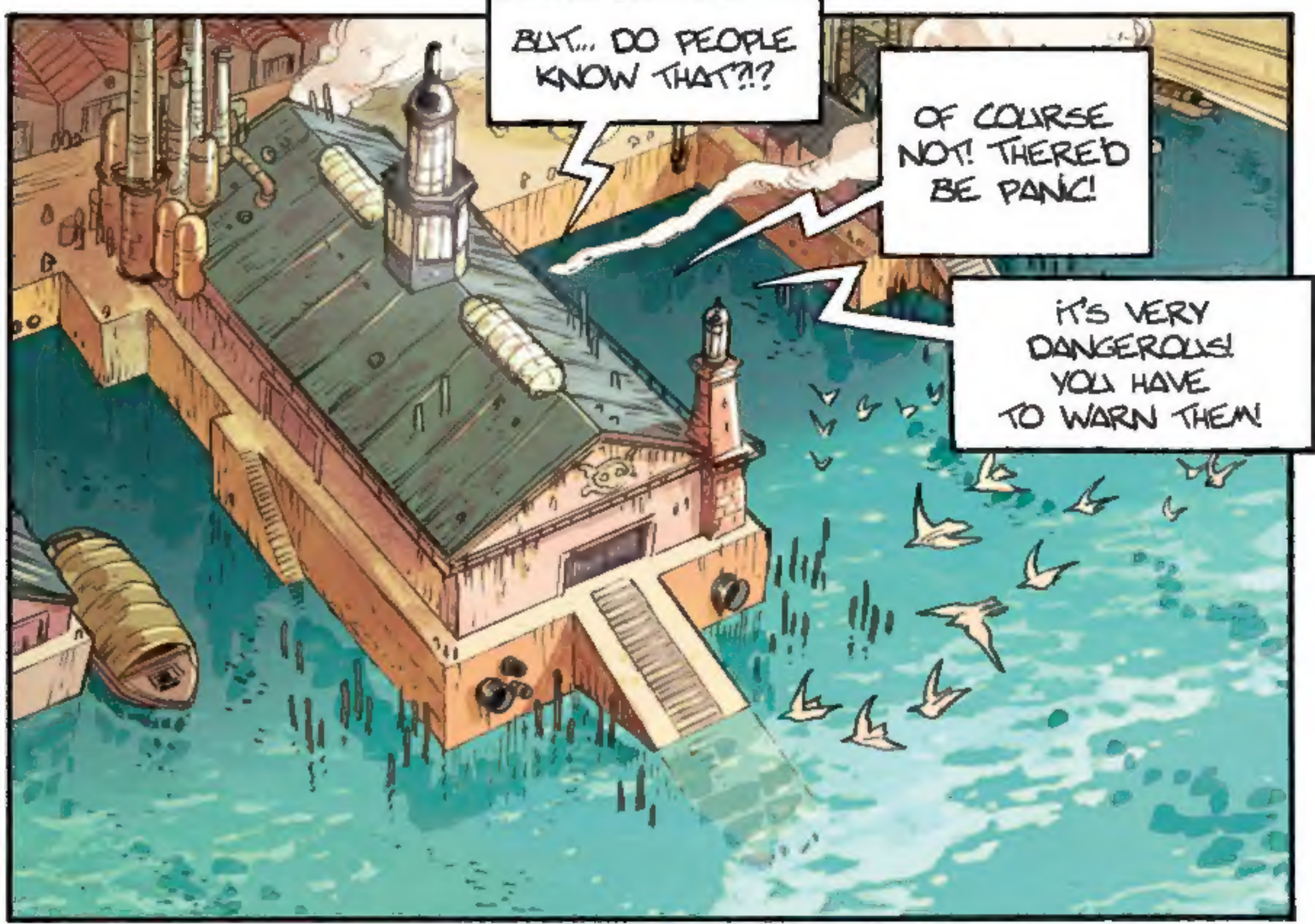


WHAT WAS THAT? A WEREPRASHAWN?

OUR KIN IS QUITE FLEXIBLE. ONLY TEA AND EXPERTISE CAN CONTROL THIS.

SADLY, MY SON IS VERY SENSITIVE, HE CAN QUICKLY SHIFT.

YOUNGSTERS LESS THAN TWO OR THREE CENTURIES ARE RARELY ABLE TO CONTROL THEMSELVES.



BUT... DO PEOPLE KNOW THAT???

OF COURSE NOT! THERE'D BE PANIC!

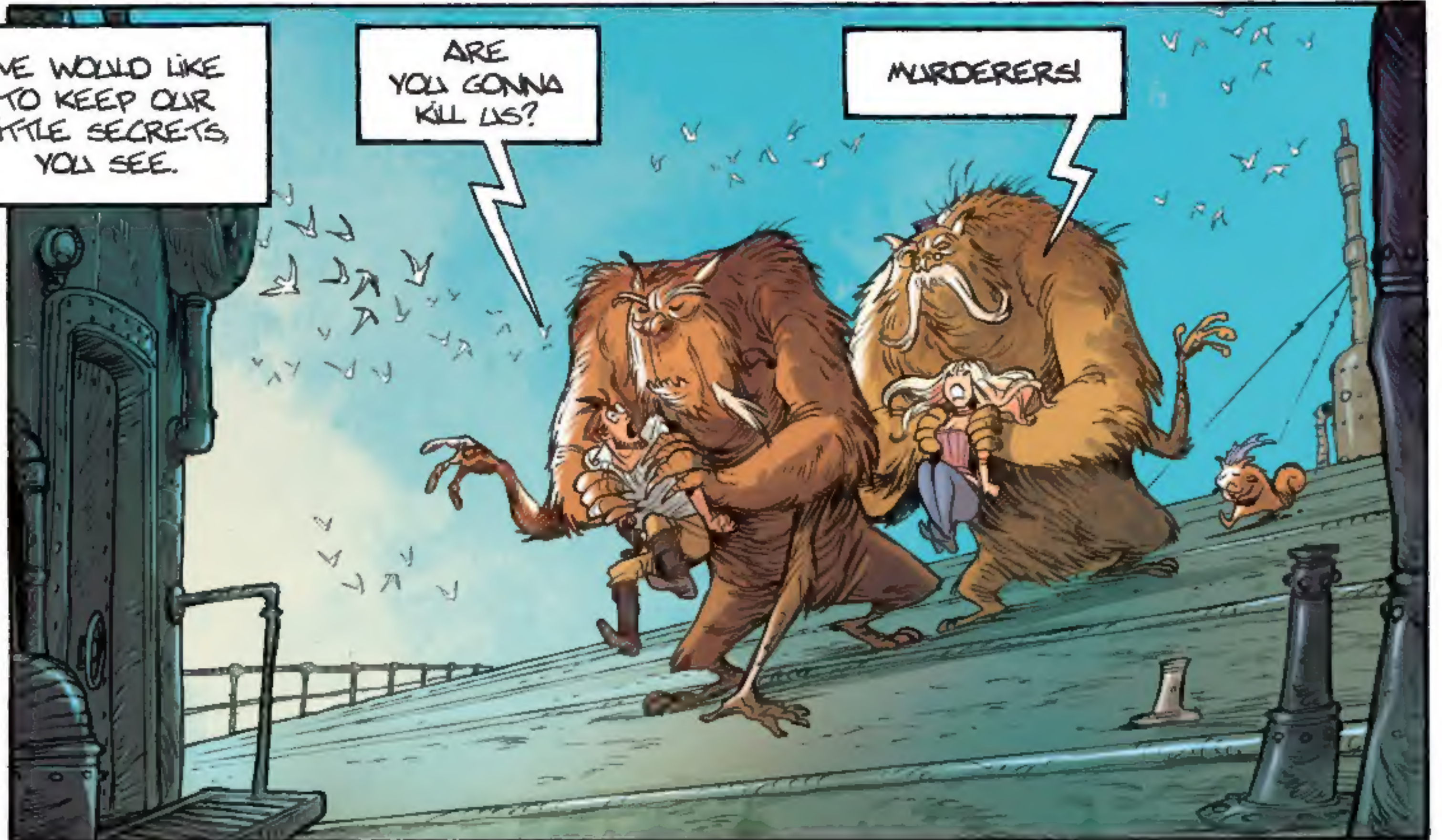
IT'S VERY DANGEROUS! YOU HAVE TO WARN THEM!



I DON'T THINK YOU'LL HAVE THE CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT IT.



WE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP OUR LITTLE SECRETS YOU SEE.



ARE YOU GONNA KILL US?

MURDERERS!

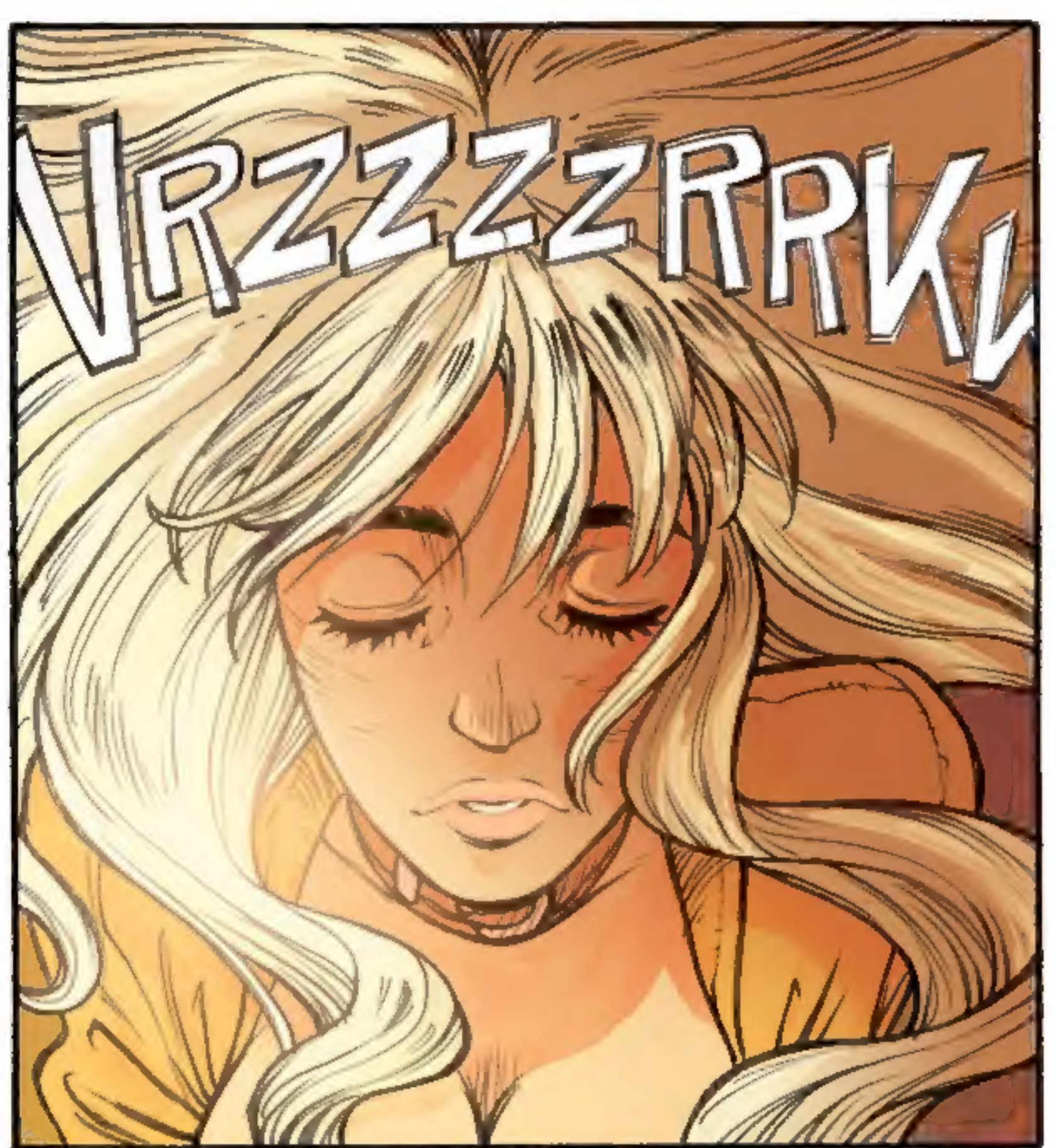


I AM SORRY...

SO SORRY...



OH!!



VRZZZZRRK!

